

Some Thoughts for June 2023
Marge Loenser

Here we are in June already, with summer knocking at the door! June, the month of graduates, brides, roses and most importantly, the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, welcome!

On June 1st we celebrate St. Justin, an early Christian philosopher and apologist. He was from (all places) Samaria. He was killed in Rome under emperor Marcus Aurelius in the year 165. St. Justin, pray for us.

On the 2nd we celebrate Saints Marcellinus and Peter. They were arrested by the brutal executioner, emperor Diocletian in the early 4th century. St. Marcellinus was a priest and St. Peter was an exorcist. While in prison they converted many prisoners to Christianity, even the jailor and his family. Saints Marcellinus and St. Peter, please pray for us.

We celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday the 16th. This devotion (Eucharistic adoration and mass attendance on first Fridays) was started by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque after Jesus appeared to her and gave her His plan to spread to the faithful. I would like to share with you this short prayer to the Sacred Heart that I recently found:

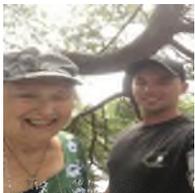
“Oh, most Holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You and with lively sorrow for my sins, I offer you this poor prayer of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant, good Jesus that I may live in You and for You. Amen.”

On the 29th we celebrate St. Peter and St. Paul. Peter, who started out as a humble fisherman, became, as Jesus prophesied “A fisher of Men.” St. Paul was a Pharisee and tent maker; he persecuted the early church until His dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, where his conversion began. Both were destined to become pillars of the church. They gave their lives to evangelize, baptize, heal, and convert thousands and thousands of both Jews and gentiles. Peter became our first Pope. Jesus said: “You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail upon it.” (Matt 16-18) Paul who traveled extensively throughout the middle east and Rome (to name a few of his missions) wrote all the letters to the churches that he founded that we read almost every day at Mass. St. Peter and St. Paul please pray for our church and its leaders.

I cannot forget to mention St. Anthony, a favorite saint of ours who we celebrate on the 13th. Although he was a prolific orator and theologian, we think of him lovingly as our “great finder of lost things.” St. Anthony pray for us and please pray for all the lost and misguided souls that have wandered away from God.

Let us continue to pray for our country each and every day. God bless you.

Love,
Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark’s Church in Sea Girt where she is a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark’s. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark’s Church Bulletin.