

Some Thoughts for May 2024

Marge Loenser

Welcome sweet May! You get your name from the Greek goddess Maia. We love May because finally, (hopefully) our weather gets warmer. The flowers, such as Peonies, Pansies, and Geranium, to name a few, make our gardens smile in the sunshine.

May starts off with a tribute to St. Joseph, the worker. Picture the young boy Jesus helping St. Joseph in his shop, probably set up near their home. Jesus would continue to learn the trade with his father and when he was older there was a good chance He would go off with St. Joseph to work in the big city of Sephoris, a few miles from Nazareth. They probably also worked with stone and did other construction work. It was a rocky, hilly region and trees were scarce. St. Joseph, please pray for us and our families.

On May 3rd we celebrate the feast of St. James, the Less and St. Philip, apostle. After the church was established, St. James, who was a cousin of Jesus, became the bishop of Jerusalem and was an important figure in decision making in the early church. We remember St. Philip from the gospel of John: 14:8-10: "Jesus said to him: Don't you know me Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? How can you say show us the Father? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? St. James and St. Philip please pray for us.

On the 9th we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. Jesus said: "You will receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." Acts, 1-8. Come Holy Spirit, I need you!

On May 13, of course, we give tribute to our Lady of Fatima. Fatima, Portugal being probably the most popular pilgrimage site of our Lady. Our Lady had the sun spin in the sky on October 13, 1917, a sight witnessed by thousands of pilgrims. Our Lady of Fatima, please pray for us. Let us follow her directions and pray the Rosary each day.

On the personal side, My Dad was born on May 13. He was quite a lovable character. I remember one time back in the early 50's a poor beggar came to our door selling pencils. He was dirty and rumped looking. Dad invited him in, (what?!) sat him down at the kitchen table and fed him a meal of eggs and probably bacon and toast. My brothers and I sat around jaws agape, never having been close to anyone like this before or having witnessed any scene like this. Looking back, I wonder if Dad had any inkling that he was feeding Jesus. Well, now in heaven his meal with Jesus will be much more sumptuous.

Among other saints we celebrate St. Mary Magdalene, one of the faithful woman followers that supported Jesus and the apostles in their ministry. She was faithful to the end and stayed at the foot of the cross and was there at the resurrection site very early on Sunday morning. St Mary of Magdala, pray for us.

May 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.