

Some Thoughts for April 2026
Marge Loenser

If I list all the names of the twelve months of the year, I would have to say I pick April as my favorite name. I think it makes a lovely name for a little girl, don't you? April's flowers are daisies and sweet peas. Its gem stone is a diamond. It's famous for its showers, remember: "They bring the flowers that bloom in May..." The most important thing about April, however, is of course Easter--the resurrection of our Lord; His triumph over death and sin.

April 1st is Holy Wednesday, the day Judas betrayed Jesus to the high priests. At the evening meal, Jesus said: "One of you will betray me." This was upsetting to the apostles and all began to ask, "surely it is not I?" Jesus replied "The one who dips his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me." Of course Judas did just that. Haven't we all betrayed Jesus one way or another during our lifetime? We know Jesus forgives us, but still we are saddened by our behavior.

April 2, Holy Thursday we celebrate the Mass of the Holy Chrism, or the blessing of the oil for the sick. In the evening we have the mass of the Lord's supper, with the washing of the feet. We celebrate the institution of the Holy Eucharist, at the Last Supper. After the mass the altar is stripped and the center tabernacle's doors are left open, and the Eucharist is moved to a side altar. This is a very sad time for us-- the absence of Eucharist and the beginning of the passion. After supper Jesus and the apostles walk up to the Garden of Olives. Jesus begins His agony.

Good Friday follows on the third. Jesus is betrayed by the high priests and tried by Pilate. We follow His path as He carries His cross on the Via Dolorosa or the Way of Sorrows as he makes His way to Calvary. (My brothers and sisters, let us remember to start the novena of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy which will end on the Sunday after Easter.) Jesus suffers and dies on the cross for us. We praise and we bless you Jesus, because by your holy cross, You have redeemed the world!

We celebrate Easter on the 5th. I remember with such joy coloring all those Easter eggs and making those Easter Baskets for the kids. I also remember dressing up for mass and wearing an Easter Bonnet. What a beautiful mass. All those alleluias. Such joy. Christ has risen. Heaven's doors are flung open. Praise and thank you Jesus!

Happy Easter and may God bless us, each one.

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.