Some Thoughts for August 2026
Marge Loenser

August! A month filled with beautiful blooms-- my favorites being the Crepe Myrtle and Zinnias. Such a range of colors! The gem of the month is the ruby. August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Holy Mother please continue to bless us with your motherly protection. We celebrate your assumption into heaven on the 15th. On the 6th we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord. We see Peter James and John accompany Jesus as he climbed atop a high mountain (probably Mt. Tabor) to speak to Moses and Elijah . What a thrill and astonishing sight for the apostles--to see such holy prophets of old, and Jesus glorified, shining like the sun!

August is full of wonderful saints to celebrate, so let's take a look at some of them. On August 8th we celebrate St. Dominic. It was to him that our Blessed Mother presented to the world her holy rosary.

On the 14th, St .Maximilian Kolbe. He was born in Poland in 1894; completely devoted to our Blessed Mother from an early age. At age 10 Mary appeared to him and offered him two crowns: a red one for martyrdom and a white one for purity. He chose both and became a Franciscan friar. He started a world wide consecration movement to our Blessed Mother and spread, through print, an apostolate to Her. In l941 he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Auschwitz; there he took the place of a man condemned to death. He was locked in a small room in order to starve him to death. He held on quite a while and his keepers became impatient and decided to kill him with a lethal injection. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, people with eating disorders, amateur radio operators and the pro-life movement. St. Maximilian, please pray for us.

On August 24th we celebrate St. Bartholomew, one of the twelve apostles. He was identified as St. Nathaniel in John's gospel. He evangelized in Persia and in the area of the Black Sea. St. Bartholomew, please pray for us!

On the 27th we celebrate St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine. She prayed many years for his conversion to Christianity from the wanton pagan life he was leading. Her prayers really were answered in a great way and Augustine became one of the greatest saints and doctors of our church. We celebrate St.Augustine on the 28th. Sts. Monica and St. Augustine please pray for us.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us continue to lift one another up in prayer. Please pray for our church and our wonderful country. We have been so blessed in many ways. Thank You Jesus!

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 a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.