

Some Thoughts for March 2026
Marge Loenser

March marks the transition to spring, putting on a lovely show of daffodils, crocuses, tulips, hyacinths, forsythia, magnolia, and cherry blossoms. Welcome March! After so much cold and snow, we are ready to thaw out and enjoy your blooms!

Here we are in Lent already, so let's think about fasting (not necessarily from food but) from complaints, control, criticism and bad habits. Let us be kind, especially when it is so very difficult to be, especially when we want to be right.

On the fourth we have the memorial of St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania and Poland. He was born a prince but rejected the throne and turned from worldly pleasures to a life of prayer and dedication to the poor and needy. He died at the age of 25, and many blind and sick people who touched his body became healed. St. Casimir pray for us.

We all know what the 17th of March is-- St. Patrick's Day! Everybody is Irish on this day! "Sure and Begorrah!" Patrick was a Roman citizen born in Scotland. He was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. He later escaped and was called to the priesthood by God. He felt the need to return to Ireland to convert the pagans. He swept all over Ireland doing just that and his many, many shrines across Ireland attest to his success! This is a part of his breastplate prayer: "I arise this day through the strength of heaven, light of the sun, splendor of fire, speed of lightning, swiftness of the wind, depth of the sea, stability of the earth, and firmness of the rock." St. Patrick pray for us.

On the 19th we celebrate our dear St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and spouse of our Blessed Mother. He was a very devout Jew, chosen by God, for this great and holy responsibility. Many artists have depicted him to be an old man. I doubt that he was old when God chose him for such sacred duties. He would have had to be young and strong to protect and guard Mary and Jesus through such treacherous times and think of all the traveling they did! He worked hard as a carpenter and/or construction worker. We don't know much about Joseph except that he was just and obedient to God and what a holy death God chose for him, to be in the arms of Jesus and Mary when He called him home. (As a little girl, I thought St. Joseph was Italian because so many Italians are named Joe.)

Have a safe and happy March, my brothers and sisters! May God bless us all.

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.