Some Thoughts for October 2026
Marge Loenser

The most important thing about October is that it is the month of the Holy Rosary. We honor our Blessed Mother with this lovely prayer tracing her life and the life of her Son, Jesus.

Interesting facts about October: It comes from “octo“, the Latin word for “eight.” In the Roman calendar it was the 8th month before January and February were added. The name did not change when the calendar shifted, so it remains October today even though it probably should be labeled December, as “decem” is the Latin word for 10. (Abbot and Costello would have had a field day with this tidbit.) How many of you remember “Who’s on First?”

The gem stones for this month are the opal and the tourmaline. It’s flowers are the marigold and cosmos.

October 1st is the feast of the “Little Flower” or St. Therese of Lisieux, whose life represented doing small things in a loving way. “The Little Way,” is a path of spiritual childhood marked by simplicity, humility and trust in God’s Love. On a personal note it is my grandson Tyler’s 33rd birthday to be followed by his wedding day of October 9. God bless you, Tyler and Chelsea!

On Oct. 2 we honor our guardian angels. Jesus mentions them in Matthew 18:10 when He is embracing the little children. “See that you do not despise one of these littlest ones for I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”

Oct fourth this year is a Sunday and we do not celebrate saints on Sundays, but we can remember and honor St Francis of Assisi by remembering his life; the way he turned away from the world to serve the poor; the way God told him to rebuild His church; the way he established the Franciscan Order; his stigmata and his wonderful gift of being able to communicate with the animals, and by carrying on the tradition of the blessing of the animals. St. Francis of Assisi, please pray for us.

On the 22nd we honor St. Pope John Paul II. This charismatic pope traveled the world spreading World Youth Day. He had quite an influence on the youth! He played a very important part in supporting the Polish people and by helping to end The Soviet Union’s strangle hold on much of Eastern Europe. St. Pope John Paul II, please pray for us, our country and the world.

On the 28th we celebrate St. Simon and St. Jude, both apostles. Traditionally, they traveled together and preached together as missionary companions. According to tradition they may have been cousins of our Lord. St. Jude is known as the saint of impossible causes. We pray for him for miracles and for help in impossible situations. St. Simon and St. Jude, please pray for us.

May God bless each one of you, may we continue to pray for our country, the sick and all caretakers.

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.