

Some Thoughts for July 2023

Marge Loenser

Happy July 4th! God bless America on this our 247th anniversary. Lord, we thank you for this wonderful land. We ask you to “stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above...” In many ways we are going through the night, but we must remember that Jesus Christ is the light from above and through prayer and righteous activity we will continue our fight for our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We must pray and stand behind those who support our constitution--with equal justice for all, under the law.

I would like to take you back to July 1948 when the Fox family left Brooklyn for the “wild country of Jersey.” (Roselle) I can still picture my kid brother, Mickey, and I racing across Uncas Ave, through vacant lots toward West Brook, our summer playground. Mom would pack us salami sandwiches made with Freihofer’s Vienna bread, and away we would go. I can still hear Mom yelling at Mickey because he had no dry socks left. You see, his goal was to clear the stream in one leap. Rarely did he make it. Another treat on a July night was crossing Wood Ave., running through vacant lots to McGillvray Pond Park to watch free movies outside. Of course, we were eaten alive by mosquitoes, but it was worth it. If I remember correctly the movies were cartoons. Thank you, God for those precious July days with my family. They are, I’m sure, all praying for me from above. Thank you, Lord for my Mom and Dad and brothers.

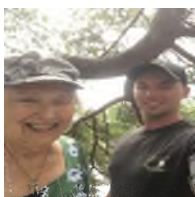
This month we celebrate St. Thomas, St. Benedict, St. Kateri, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. James to name a few. On July 14 we celebrate St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Baptized Catherine, she was also known as the “Lily of the Mohawks.” She is the first Native American to be recognized as a saint. She was born in 1656 in New York. She contracted smallpox as a child, which badly scarred her skin. The scars were a source of humiliation for her as a child. She was commonly seen wearing a blanket to hide her face. She took a vow of chastity and vowed to marry only Jesus Christ. She died at the age of 24 after a life of self-mortification and self-denial. St. Kateri, pray for us.

On the 25th we celebrate St. James, brother of St. John, both sons of Zebedee. At some point after Pentecost St. James went on to evangelize the area of Spain. He was the first apostle to be martyred. St. James, please pray for us.

On the 29th we celebrate Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. This family was blessed to be close friends of Jesus, and they would often open their home to Him. We remember the time Martha complained to Jesus that Mary was not helping her serve the guests (Jesus and the apostles) and Jesus replied: “Martha, Martha you are anxious about so many things; but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part for herself which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10: 41) Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, pray for us.

May God bless us all.

Love,
Marge Loenser



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.