

Harry Stewart was an American comedian and singer who was born in Tacoma Washington in 1908. He is most well-known as the character Yorgi Yorgesson, where in 1949 he recorded the single “I Yus Go Nuts A Christmas” with “Yingle Bells” on the flip side.

In that signature hit, he laments how much money he spends at Christmas, as well as the hassle of shopping. Not to mention how hard it is to find the right gifts for his wife and kids, as well as the general chaos that surrounds parties and guests and everything else that seems to have taken over the Christmas season.

Now, that was 63 years ago ... and if things were “nuts” back then - how much more so are they now? What with Black Friday and Cyber Monday; or how we went straight from Halloween to Christmas at Walmart. Or even the mayhem that we’re assaulted with on the evening news, or the madness and violence that happens at home and overseas.

Despite all of that, in today’s readings we are told by both the Prophet Zephaniah and the Apostle Paul to “*rejoice.*” Paul telling us that “*the Lord is near,*” and Zephaniah that “*the Lord ... [our] mighty savior*” ... “*[our] God is in [our] midst.*”

In the Gospel, we see John the Baptist again - exhorting the crowds of people toward repentance and generosity, tax collectors to honesty, and soldiers to fairness.

And we are told that “*the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking*” about the Christ.

And here we are, on the third of four Sundays of Advent. Are we filled with joyful expectation? Or are we “yus” going nuts? Has the evening news - filled with bad news - displaced the joyful expectation of Christmas for us?

On this day, the Church prescribes the wearing of “rose” vestments. Pink, if you ask me. But in this symbol, there is a sign for all of us.

We can often get too wrapped up in the things that don't really matter - and miss out on what is most important in life. We were all baptized into the Divine Life of the Trinity - and as such, share in an important relationship with God and each other.

During this blessed season of Advent, we need to take a little time to reflect on what is important - family, relationships, God ... and let the rest of the world "yus" go nuts - if it will. We must find our center ... our peace. And that center and that peace can be found in our Savior Jesus Christ.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us ask for the graces we need to return to a sense of joyful expectation. Christmas is less than 10 days away ... the Lord is near ... God is in our midst. Let us rejoice in this mystery ... in this Truth of God's presence among us ... right here ... and right now.