

December 10, 2017  
 Second Sunday of Advent



Happy  
 Birthday



**Prayers for the III**

To better facilitate this list it will be completely deleted on **February 4th** unless you contact the office at 447-2685 and ask for your loved one to remain.

Gladys Bishop	Tim Koenig
Mary Boisen	Kathy Lee
Carl Burrell	Margaret &
Johnnee Curtis	Kevin McGlocklin
Don & Judy Deerwester	Yesenia Sandoval
Clifford Doty	Nancy Sanger
Matt Finnegan	Family of Tara Serino
Russ Fletcher	Jerry Tefft
Dave Floyd	Roman Vasquez
Jim Hines	Rosie Yepez
Rose Kirby	Tony Yepez



**This Month's Birthdays**

Rick Obrien.....12/03  
 Holly Waterman.....12/06  
 Casey Keck.....12/12  
 Patricia Mauro.....12/12  
 Virginia Brown.....12/13  
 Ray Dirks.....12/20  
 Susan Galipeau.....12/21  
 Tripp McCann.....12/23  
 Lawana Pahler.....12/24  
 Robert Leuttgen.....12/25  
 Sean Winkler.....12/30  
 Luke Winkler.....12/31

**PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT**

Gail Davaz @ 509-292-2601  
 Nellie Graham @ 509-951-1020



The Catholic Charities Collection raises essential funds that allow us to answer Christ's call to help the poor and vulnerable. Together with you, we **Respond to Crisis, Stabilize Lives, and Advocate in Hope** by serving over 70,000 individuals in Eastern Washington each year. Make a secure donation online at [www.CatholicCharitiesSpokane.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesSpokane.org) or mail to P.O. Box 2253, Spokane, WA 99210-2253. **Your gift saves lives.**  
**Have a blessed Advent season!**

**THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

is scheduled for **NEXT WEEK**, December 17th, following the 11am Mass. We need helpers to set up the trees and decorations today. All help is appreciated. The Knights will be cooking breakfast that day, **DONATIONS** of \$5/Adults, \$3/for children under 12.

It would be nice to also have cookies and treats for everyone.



A Joyful Christmas

Comfort  
 By [Lawrence Mick](#)

Today's readings seem to continue last week's themes. John the Baptist calls for repentance and echoes Isaiah's call to prepare the way of the Lord. But Isaiah begins by proclaiming God's comfort for Jerusalem, for her guilt is expiated. Once again, repentance leads to joy. In other strong passages, St. Paul proclaims that God is patient with us so that we have time to repent, and Isaiah reminds us of God's gentle love: "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care."

# DEAR PADRE

December 10, 2017

*Especially before Christmas, I appreciate times of silence at Mass but seldom find them. Priests ask the congregation to open their missalettes after Communion to recite the daily antiphon, which seems more trouble to locate and say than to simply remain silent. Please advise.*

Before Mass, it's commendable that silence be observed in the church, sacristy, vesting room, and adjacent areas so that all may "carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 45). During Mass, "Let us pray" is an invitation to observe a moment of silence for the congregation to "place themselves in God's presence and make their personal petitions" (Introduction to the Order of Mass, 35). Communal silence is also observed within the penitential act for people to recollect themselves, at the end of a reading or the homily for all to meditate briefly on what they've heard, then after Communion to praise and pray to God in their hearts (GIRM 45). In other words, there's a silence that reflects shame before God for our sins, a silence that reflects our need to ponder his word, and a deep silence before God that reflects awe and incapacity for words after receiving the Body of Christ! If there's no singing after Communion, the antiphon "may be recited either by the faithful, or by some of them, or by a reader; otherwise, it is recited by the priest himself after he has received Communion and before he distributes Communion to the faithful" (GIRM 87). Without liturgical silence, "the celebration can become perfunctory in its haste or burdensome in its unrelieved sound and song" (Introduction 48).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

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# GOOD NEWS

December 10, 2017 Second Sunday of Advent  
(B) Is 40:1–5, 9–11 2, Pt 3:8–14, Mk 1:1–8

Most of us are not good at waiting. We want things right away and would rather arrive just on time than stand around uselessly. Few things are as annoying as waiting in a doctor's office, a government office, or being stuck in traffic. Yet waiting can also be an exciting and busy time, like a bride and groom preparing for their wedding. There is no time to waste, since the date is approaching and there is so much to do in order for everything to be prepared perfectly. Advent waiting should be more like this expectant waiting. John the Baptist was sent to point toward Christ and invite the people to their wedding with God. The divine spouse was coming back to his beloved and sent the groom ahead to let everyone know he was coming. Thus John preached preparation, conversion, and setting aside everything that would distract people from getting the heart ready for Jesus. Loving, active planning was as necessary for those who listened to John the Baptist as it is for us. This means going up the mountain and into the desert. Set aside normal distractions and dedicate more time to think about Christ, preparing our hearts and minds for the big day of his arrival. Advent isn't a nervous time of sitting around and hoping the line goes quickly. It is an active, engaged, and hopeful anticipation of one we eagerly await.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC ©

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live---the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

