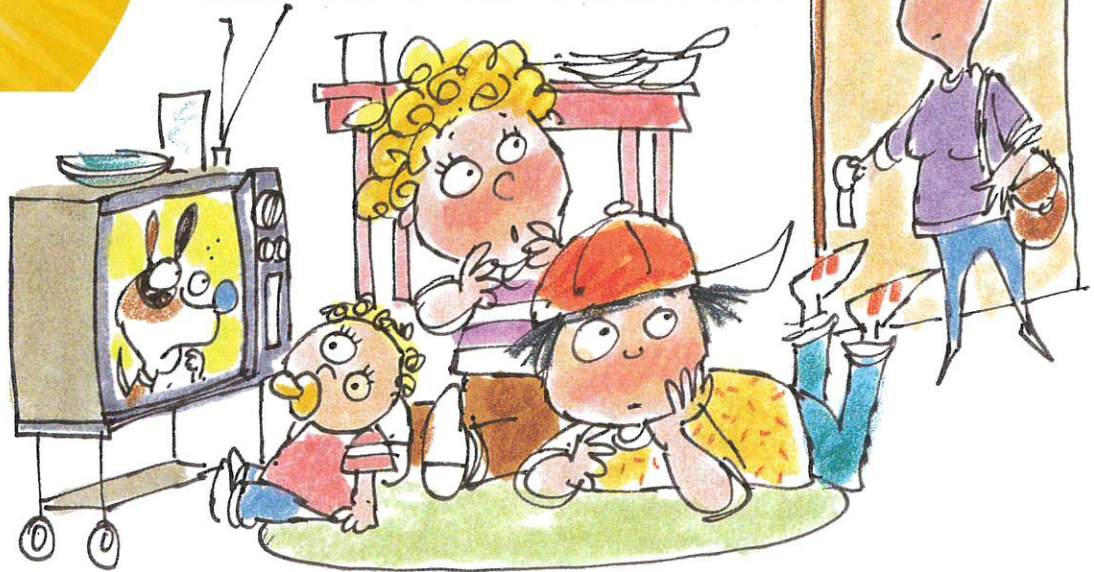


First Sunday of Advent (B)
 Mark 13:33-37 • November 29, 2020

WHEN "LATER" IS TOO LATE



GOSPEL THEME

Be ready for God at all times.

Janie's mother had to go to a meeting after dinner. She decided to trust Janie and her brother to be "in charge" of things while she was gone. She asked Janie to do the dishes and clean up the kitchen. She asked Jerry to get Tess, their little sister, ready for bed. After all that was done, Janie and Jerry were to do their homework.

"There's a great movie on," said Janie the minute their mother had walked out the door. They quickly decided they would have plenty of time to get the work done later. So Janie and Jerry and little Tess stretched out in front of the TV. As it turned out, it was a very long movie. They were all taken

by surprise when their mother walked into the room. The dishes were still on the table, Tess was still up, and no homework was done.

Needless to say, their mother was very angry at them. They had failed to live up to the trust she had placed in them. Not only that, but the next day Janie and Jerry got in trouble at school because they didn't have their homework finished.

Janie and Jerry learned that sometimes "later" is too late. When there is something important to do, the time to do it is NOW.

READINESS SCRAMBLE

A good Christian lives for Jesus at all times. Here are ten ways that you can keep yourself ready for him to come. Unscramble the words to find the rules.

- 1** VEENR GHTIF _____
- 2** LETT HET RUHTT _____
- 3** YLAP RIFA _____
- 4** YRAP ORF HET CKSI _____
- 5** SIIVT EHT OLNELY _____
- 6** BYEO RUYO ANRESTP _____
- 7** OG OT SAMS _____
- 8** AYS ORUY RYAERPS _____
- 9** LHEP HET LEEDLYR _____
- 10** N'TOD EB LEASJUO _____

SHARING the GOOD NEWS Activity for Class or Family

Begin today to get ready for a truly Christ-centered Christmas. In the next few weeks we will be giving you patterns for special tree decorations that will keep Christ in your Christmas preparations. These can be made with construction paper or with dough art. The dough art recipe may be doubled or tripled so that all can participate.

DOUGH ART

1 cup flour 1/2 cup salt 1/2 cup water

Mix ingredients together until the mixture is firm and easy to mold. It should not stick to your fingers. Test it to see if it can be molded easily into shapes. If the dough is too soft, add more flour; if too stiff, add more water — a little at a time.

Use waxed paper under your dough as you mold it. The dough can be rolled into long thin pieces and shaped into geometric designs. It can be stacked to make a three-dimensional effect. Be sure to leave a hole at the top of each ornament so you can insert a hook or string for hanging.

The ornaments take about a week to dry without baking or can be baked at about 400 degrees until light brown. Before baking, hard candy (lollipops or sour balls) can be crushed into small bits and placed in the open spaces of your ornament. When cool, the candied areas will be transparent. Paint, shellac, or glitter the ornaments — use your imagination!

THIS WEEK'S ORNAMENT A CHI-RHO

The Chi-Rho is the symbol you may have seen on the Host at communion time, on the priest's vestments, on the altar cloths, or on prayer books. It is a symbol made from the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek: Chi (X) and Rho (P).

To make a Chi-Rho:

- Cut out three rectangular strips of paper or dough art (see illustration).
- Cut out one U-shaped piece.
- Cross two of the short pieces. If you are making paper ornaments, paste or tape them together.
- Paste the third strip and the U-shaped piece as shown.
- Paint or color your Chi-Rho a bright color so it will show up nicely on your tree.

