

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY

1st Sunday in Advent Year B - 3 December 2023



“Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.”

Something to Think About

Today we celebrate the beginning of the Church’s liturgical year. Advent is a season of joy and expectation. It is a time of preparing and getting ready for the birth of Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas.

The Story

The gospel warns us to be on our guard and to be ready for when Jesus comes again. Nobody knows exactly when that will be, so we need to try and be ready all the time. Jesus asks us to keep our eyes open to see what is happening around us so that we can do good in the world. What do you think Jesus wants us to see in the world as we look around us?

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Watch out and be ready!

You don't know when the time will come.

It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything.

He tells each of them what to do, and he orders the watchmen to be on their guard.

"So be on your guard!

You don't know when the master of the house will come back.

It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning.

But if he comes suddenly, don't let him find you asleep.

I tell everyone just what I have told you.

Be on your guard!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

[Catholic Kids Advent Week 1 Cycle B](#)



Group Discussion

When Advent comes, we know that Christmas and the holidays are not very far away! It is an exciting time as we eagerly await the joy of Christmas. Christmas is a time for gift-giving. What can you do to prepare for this wonderful celebration?

Imagine for a moment that you are Jesus. What sorts of gifts would you (as Jesus) want to give to people?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray for the people of every country in the world. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who need some restful sleep. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for all who must travel far from home. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will be filled with joy as we wait for Jesus. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will always be ready to hear about God's great love for us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



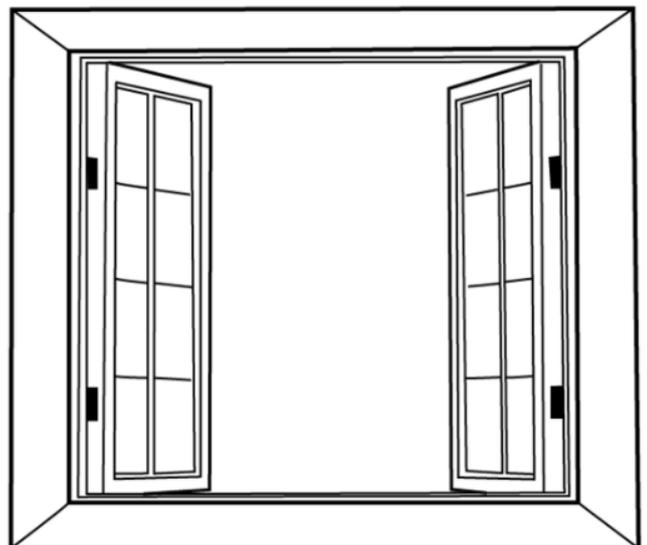
Dear Jesus,
Help us to see the needs of others in
the world.
Walk with us as we spread your hope
and love to all we meet.
Amen.

Group Activity

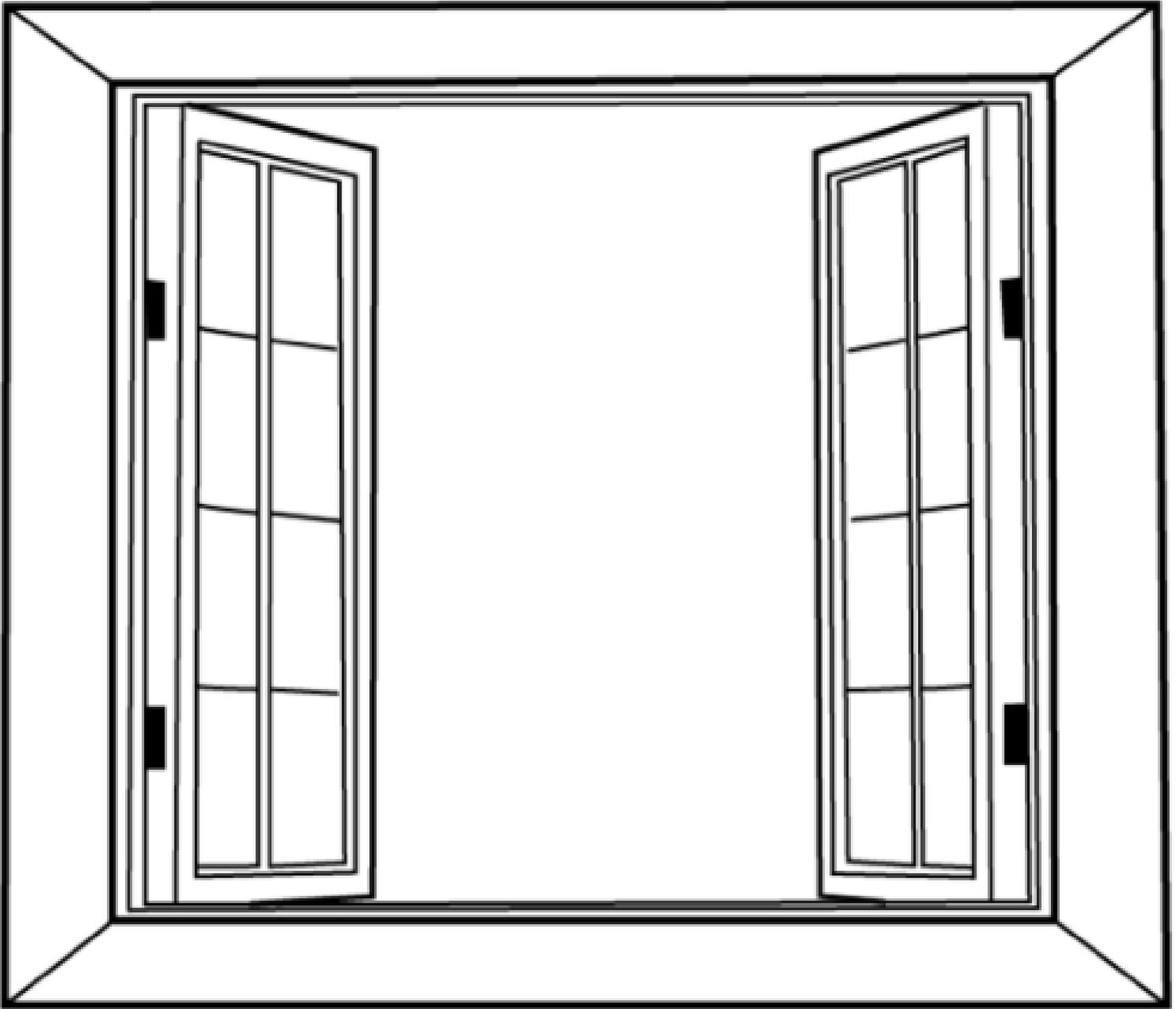
What do you think Jesus would like us to do when we see people who are sad, lonely, poor or sick? Jesus asks us to keep our eyes open and be his helpers in the world. Who might need help? Who might need a friend? What are we ready to do?

Print out the template of a window frame (next page). Imagine that you are looking out through the window. What do you see? Draw someone who needs help and then draw what you would do to help them.

Older children may like to write a short prayer for all the people in the world who need our help.



Through My Window



Imagine that you are looking out through the window.

Draw someone who needs help and then draw what you would do to help them.

WATCH OUT AND BE READY!



ADVENT MEANS 'COMING'

In Advent, we watch out for
the COMING OF CHRIST at
Christmas and we get ready.



How can you get ready for Christ at Christmas?