

St. Nicholas of Myra

St Petka Serbian Orthodox Church
Children's Sunday School

Early Life of St. Nicholas

Born in the 3rd Century (1700 years ago)

In the Patara near Myra (Modern day Turkey)

To a wealthy Greek Christian family

His Uncle was a Bishop named Nicholas

Who also became a Saint

His parents died from illness at a young age

He had an early calling to follow Christ's Teaching

"Sell what you own and give the money to the poor"

From an early age he dedicated his life and his inheritance to charity and helping the needy, sick and suffering in Christ's Name

Travelled to the Holy Land to become a monk



Life of St. Nicholas Bishop of Myra

Became a Bishop shortly after devoting his life as a monk at Holy Zion Monastery in the Holy Lands

During this time of the Early Church, Christians were heavily persecuted

St. Nicholas was imprisoned by the Pagan Emperor Diocletian

Was later released by Emperor Constantine who accepted Christianity into the Roman Empire in the 4th Century (The Edict of Milan 313 AD)

As Bishop, he preached Christ's teachings to the pagans and stood up for the weak, poor, and innocent

He became a very popular and holy figure among the people during this difficult time as many turned to the Church for Salvation

He would secretly give food and money to those in need for God's Glory

He was very wise and took part of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea rooting out heresies that threatened The Faith

Performed many good deeds & miracles and was considered a Wonder Worker for God



St. Nicholas the Wonder Worker

What is a “Wonder Worker”?

A holy person whom God performs many miracles through

God grants miracles through people to accomplish His Divine Will (God’s Plan)

St. Nicholas still performs many miracles for us

Which is why people from all over the world still remember and venerate him in their prayers for his intercession

It is good to pray to St. Nicholas when you are in need

Miracles of St. Nicholas:

Safety for those who are in danger and in fear

Healing of the sick or injured

Assistance for if you are in poverty or in financial need



St. Nicholas and “Santa Claus”

“Santa Claus” was a real person & a real Saint

“Santa” = Saint

“Claus” = Nickolaus

In the West, Santa Claus has been associated differently than how he is venerated in the Eastern Orthodox Church

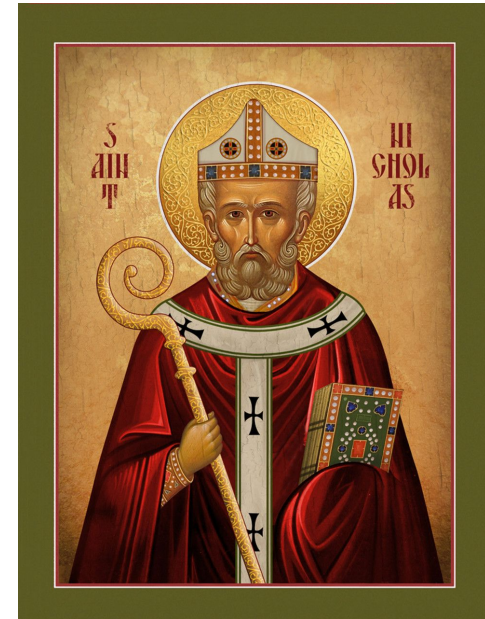
Important to separate Christmas as The Birth of Jesus Christ (The Nativity of Our Lord)

Christmas is on January 7th (December 25)

To us Orthodox Christians, he is always St. Nicholas of Myra

St. Nicholas Day “Nikoljdan” Slava is on December 19th (December 8th)

It is around this Christmas Season that we remember the lessons of St. Nicholas and how he lived a Christ-like life serving God.



Lessons from St. Nicholas

Have love and hope for God even through suffering

To feed those who are hungry

To be kind and compassionate to those less fortunate

To be merciful to those that have sinned and imprisoned

To be charitable and to give to those in need especially women and children

To be whole heartily generous with your gifts and realize that all your blessings come from God

To remember to live a life like Christ did here on Earth

