

Kid's Corner: ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

We are almost in Advent! Christmas is approaching, and like every year, we wait for Jesus to come into our world once again. What makes you excited for Christmas? Perhaps you enjoy hearing stories about Santa Claus and receiving presents from him. But did you know that the real Santa Claus was actually a Bishop and is one of our Church's favourite saints? His name is Saint Nicholas, and we celebrate his feast day on December 6, just a few weeks before Christmas.

Much like Santa, Saint Nicholas loved giving gifts, and sometimes he was very sneaky about it. One time, Bishop Nicholas heard that a poor man couldn't afford to have his three daughters get married. In those days, weddings were an expensive business, especially for the family of the bride! When the man's daughters learned that they couldn't get married, they were very sad, but their father was too proud to ask anyone for money.

Luckily, Bishop Nicholas heard about the family's problem. That night, he tip-toed to the poor man's home and dropped a bag of shiny silver coins into an open window. What joy there was that next morning! The oldest daughter rushed away in delight to tell her groom that they could get married after all.

"Oh how wonderful!" said the youngest daughter. "Maybe we'll get to be bridesmaids!" "Maybe, but what about us?" asked the middle daughter. "I'm ready to be married too, and the money won't be enough for two weddings."

Thankfully, the generous bishop knew that too. The next night, he once again snuck out of the cathedral and dropped a second bag through the window. What joy there was on that second morning! The middle daughter hugged her father and her little sister and ran off to start looking at wedding dresses.

Now only the youngest daughter remained. "How lovely that both of my sisters will soon be wed to good husbands," she thought. "I only wonder, will I also be so lucky?" Well, thanks to Nicholas, she was! That following night, he rewarded her patience by dropping an extra-special bag of coins and jewels into her window. She, too, would soon be happily married. The bishop's work was done.



For you to do: In a lot of countries, children receive gifts and sweets from Saint Nicholas in their shoes on the morning of December 6th instead of getting gifts on Christmas. Surprise someone in your family by stuffing one of their shoes with treats the night before St. Nicholas's feast day.