
**ST. NICHOLAS
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA**

Celebrated on December 6

HYMNS FROM THE FEAST

Troparion - Tone 4

YOU APPEARED TO YOUR FLOCK AS A RULE OF FAITH,
AN IMAGE OF HUMILITY AND A TEACHER OF
ABSTINENCE.
BECAUSE OF YOUR LOWLINESS, HEAVEN WAS OPENED TO
YOU,
BECAUSE OF YOUR POVERTY, RICHES WERE GRANTED TO
YOU//
HOLY BISHOP NICHOLAS PRAY TO CHRIST OUR GOD TO
SAVE OUR SOULS

Kontakion - Tone 3

YOU REVEALED YOURSELF, SAINT, IN MYRA AS A PRIEST,
FOR YOU FULFILLED THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
BY GIVING UP YOUR SOUL FOR YOUR PEOPLE,
AND SAVING THE INNOCENT FROM DEATH//
THEREFORE YOU ARE BLESSED AS ONE BECOME WISE IN
THE GRACE OF GOD.

Hymn from Vespers

GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT;
WORKER OF THE VINEYARD OF CHRIST:
YOU HAVE BOTH BORNE THE BURDEN OF THE DAY,
AND INCREASED THE TALENT GIVEN TO YOU.
YOU HAVE NOT SHOWN ENVY TOWARDS THOSE COMING
AFTER YOU,
THEREFORE THE GATE OF HEAVEN HAS BEEN OPENED TO

YOU:
ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD AND INTERCEDE FOR
US, SAINT NICHOLAS,
FOR IN THE COURSE OF THIS TEMPORAL LIFE
YOU HAVE RUN THE RACE TO THE PRAISE OF THE LORD
WHO HAS GIVEN YOU GLORY IN THE TRUE AND HEAVENLY
LIFE//
SINCE YOU HAVE BOLDNESS BEFORE HIM, PRAY THAT OUR
SOULS MAY BE SAVED!

From Matins

LET US SOUND THE TRUMPET OF JOY!
LET US KEEP FEAST, DANCING AND REJOICING!
REJOICING IN THE YEARLY MEMORIAL OF OUR
GOD-BEARING FATHER!
LET EMPERORS AND PRINCES RUN TOGETHER
WITH THE KING WHO BY HIS DREAD APPEARING,
WAS PERSUADED IN A DREAM TO LET GO THREE SOLDIERS
HELD WITHOUT CAUSE!
PASTORS AND TEACHERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
ASSEMBLE!
LET US COME AND PRAISE THE PASTOR WHO WAS YOUR
EQUAL IN ZEAL!
GLORIFY THE GREAT BISHOP, THE PHYSICIAN OF THOSE IN
SICKNESS,
THE DELIVERER OF THOSE IN DANGER,
THE ADVOCATE OF SINNERS,
THE TREASURE OF THE POOR,
THE COMFORTER OF THOSE IN AFFLICTION,
THE COMPANION OF TRAVELERS,
THE PILOT OF THOSE ON THE SEAS,
THE GREAT BISHOP WHO ALWAYS WARMLY CAME AND TOOK
HIS PART IN EVERY PLACE,
AND PRAISING HIM, LET US SAY:
ALL-HOLY NICHOLAS,
COME AND SAVE US FROM PRESENT NECESSITIES,//
AND SAVE YOUR FLOCK BY YOUR PRAYERS!

FROM THE WINTER PASCHA

The extraordinary thing about the image of St. Nicholas in the Church is that he is not known for anything extraordinary. He was not a theologian and never wrote a word, yet he is famous in the memory of believers as a zealot for orthodoxy.....He was not an ascetic and did no outstanding feats of fasting and vigils, yet he is praised for his possession of the "fruit of the Holy Spirit... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. " He was not a mystic...but loved daily with the Lord and was godly in all of his words and deeds...He was not a prophet yet he proclaimed the Word of God, exposed the sins of the wicked, defended the rights of the oppressed and afflicted, and battled against every form of injustice with supernatural compassion and mercy. In a word he was a good pastor, father, and bishop to his flock known especially for his love and care for the poor. Most simply put he was a divinely good person. (From The WINTER PASCHA by Father Thomas Hopko)

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS

Place the icon of St. Nicholas in a place to venerate it. Place it on the table you will have your meals and sing the troparion of the Feast before meals.

Celebrate the Feast in the Church as a family by coming to Vespers and the Divine Liturgy.

Listen to the stikhera (hymns) at vespers and tell your children the story of St. Nicholas from what you hear in Church. Take a copy of the service home with you. Use it to teach yourself and your children.

St. Nicholas loved children. Do something special in his honor by giving something special to your children. Some families have the custom of placing stockings or shoes in a special place to receive special small gifts and candy. Do this or develop your own custom for this Feast. Teach children about giving in love. Sad it is to see St. Nicholas transformed into the modern Santa Claus in these selfish secular winter holidays.

Through the guidance and example of parents have children make a reasonable promise to God to emulate St. Nicholas in the spiritual qualities and gifts learned from talking about this Feast.



SAINT NICHOLAS OF MYRA