



## St Nicholas

Nicholas was Bishop of Myra (in South West Asia Minor) in the 4th Century. In the icon, the office of Bishop is characterised by the white stole embroidered with crosses over his shoulders. The Bishop's stole represents the lost sheep carried over the shoulders of the Good Shepherd, and signifies the Bishop's pastoral role. In St Nicholas' time, the stole would have been made of lamb's wool.

Nicholas holds a copy of the Gospels in his left hand, underlining the Bishop's role of preserving and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. His right hand is shown to be giving a blessing.

St Nicholas (Santa Claus) is, among other things, Patron Saint of sailors. This is why many churches near the sea or a river are dedicated to him.

*A Prayer for St Nicholas*

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, by the prayers of your servant Nicholas grant us a childlike heart to know and do your will!

Lord Jesus Christ, gentle and humble in heart, pour out on us the spirit of mercy and compassion!

Lord Jesus Christ, fill with love and understanding the hearts we lift up to you in prayer!

Amen