

Trinity Episcopal Church

44 East Market Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

“Feeding All in Body, Mind, and Soul”
A Community of God’s People
All are Welcome



***The Lessons appointed for use on
The Feast of
Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342
December 5, 2018
(transferred from December 6th)***

Collect

Eternal God, in your great love you gave to your servant Nicholas a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea. Grant that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor and the help of those who are tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 19:17, 20–23

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and will be repaid in full.

Listen to advice and accept instruction,
that you may gain wisdom for the future.

The human mind may devise many plans,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.

What is desirable in a person is loyalty,
and it is better to be poor than a liar.

The fear of the Lord is life indeed;
filled with it one rests secure
and suffers no harm.

Psalm 145: 8–13

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

All your works praise you, O Lord, *
and your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;

That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark

Mark 10:13–16

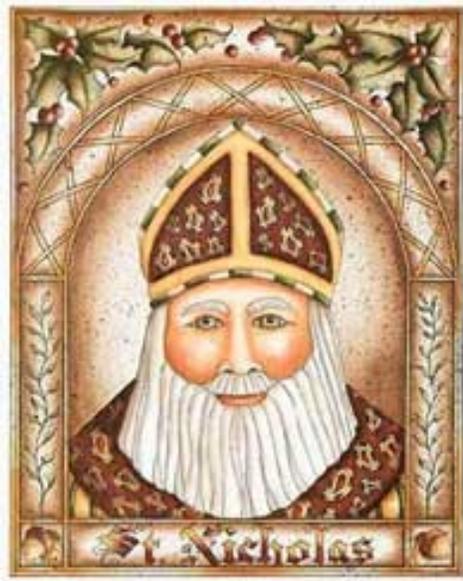
People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord our God, grant us so to cherish the example of your servant Nicholas, that our offering may have justice as its consort and mercy as its sovereign. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Source of all goodness, grant us the fruits of this holy banquet, that we may abide with you in faithfulness and show forth in all our dealings the love by which you first loved us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342.

Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra, a town in what is now southwestern Turkey, and we remember him because of the stories which have given him **“a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea.”** Nothing certain is known about his life, but the people of the Church held him in high honor from a very early date and many stories came to be told about him. **The most famous of these legends tells of his merciful generosity.** Once there were three sisters whose parents were so poor that they thought of selling them. Bishop Nicholas heard of the sisters’ plight and tossed three bags of gold onto their doorstep — thus providing them with dowries for marriage and saving them from a life of prostitution. That is why he is considered the special protector of children. **In memory of his deed of mercy to the three sisters, the Dutch developed the custom of giving gifts to children on his feast-day. They brought this custom to America, where it became associated with Christmas rather than the feast of Nicholas — and where “Sant Nikolaas” was changed into “Santa Claus.”**

Another story tells how a company of seafarers were caught in a storm off the coast of Asia Minor. The waves were swamping their ship, and the mariners were nearly at their wits’ end when they remembered what they had heard about the bishop of Myra. Though he was still alive, the sailors cried out his name and implored his help. **The legend says that Nicholas himself suddenly appeared in the rigging of their ship and calmed the storm, so that the ship and all who were in it came safely to port.**

Nicholas is considered the patron saint of many other groups besides children and sailors. **The common thread in all these claims on his heavenly protection is his legendary kindness to those in need — and his special care of those who follow his storied example by aiding the desperate, the needy, and the sick.**

Courtesy of
For All the Saints
Prayers and Readings for Saints' Days
According to the Calendar of the Book of Alternative Services
of the Anglican Church of Canada
compiled by Stephen Reynolds