

# St. Nicholas



# The Story of the Real St. Nicholas

The real St. Nicholas lived a long time ago in a place called Asia Minor, now in the country of Turkey. Nicholas' parents died when he was a teenager. They left him a lot of money which made him a rich young man. Nicholas went to live with his uncle who was a priest.

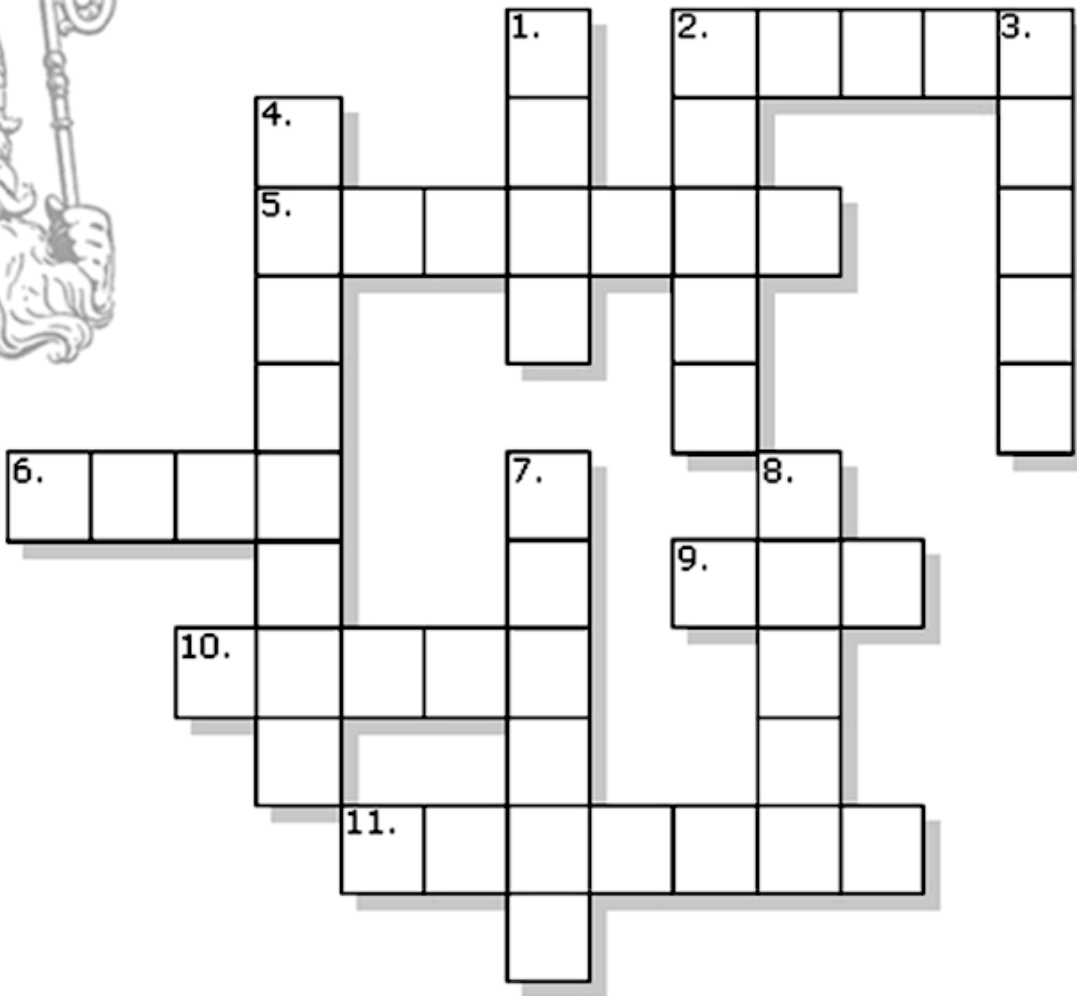
Nicholas heard about a man who had lost all his money. He had three daughters who were old enough to get married. But in those days young women had to have money in order to get married. This money was a "dowry" and it was used to help the new family get started. If you didn't have dowry money, you didn't get married. This family was so poor they had nothing left to eat. The daughters were going to be sold as slaves because they couldn't live at home any longer and were all very sad.

In the middle of the night, over three nights, Nicholas dropped bags of gold into the stockings of the girls which had been left outside the house to dry after being washed. But on the third night the father stayed up late to see who was helping his family.

"Nicholas, it is you!" he said. "Thank you for helping us—I hardly know what to say!" Nicholas said, "Please, do not thank me—thank God that your prayers have been answered. Do not tell others about me."

Nicholas continued helping people. He always tried to help secretly. He didn't want any attention or thanks. Years passed, and he was chosen to be a **bishop** in the Church. Bishops look after their people like shepherds look after their sheep. And Nicholas took care of his people, guarding their faith against wrong teachings about God, and looking after their earthly needs as well.

Everyone loved Nicholas. After he died, they told stories of the good and kind things Nicholas had done, and more and more people learned about him. He even keeps helping people as a Saint in heaven. Saint Nicholas is an example of how we should live.



**Across**

- 2. In Europe St. Nicholas often leaves treats in children's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. He is called Sinterklaas in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. He helped those in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. Nicholas taught people about \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. Whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas?
- 11. St. Nicholas' staff is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Down**

- 1. St. Nicholas helped three young women by throwing bags of \_\_\_\_\_ through a window.
- 2. St. Nicholas is often called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. His special day is December \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. St. Nicholas loves \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. He was \_\_\_\_\_ of Myra.
- 8. In Holland St. Nicholas rides a white \_\_\_\_\_.



Saint Nicholas, faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, example of Christian love, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, helper of the poor and needy, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, champion of orphans and widows, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, protector of those who sail at sea, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, defender of the true faith, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, patron of children around the world, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, secret giver of gifts, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, the great wonderworker, pray for us.  
Saint Nicholas, our friend in Heaven, pray for us. Amen.

Crossword answers:

- |                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. GOLD                          | 6. NEED     |
| 2. (Down) SANTA / (Across) SHOES | 7. BISHOP   |
| 3. SIXTH                         | 8. HORSE    |
| 4. CHILDREN                      | 9. GOD      |
| 5. HOLLAND                       | 10. JESUS   |
|                                  | 11. CROZIER |