

St Nicholas the Wonderworker and Archbishop of Myra in Lycia

Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra is transformed in our modern secular culture as Santa Claus – the man in the red suit, who brings gifts at Christmas to all those who are good. It is interesting – and telling – to consider what the Church remembers him for. Yes, he is said to have punched Arias in the nose for denying the divinity of Jesus. But most of the stories that come to us through history are of him living the Christian life – like providing a dowry to three young women so they could marry and avoid slavery (the three bags of gold he threw through their windows landed in their stockings, and so today we hang our stockings by the chimney with care). All of the stories about Archbishop Nicholas that come to us through history are about love for people – especially the poor. St. Nicholas was good. So good that his goodness shines through history – and radiates even from the man in the red suit. Such goodness can only be found in one who dwells intimately with Lord – for He is the only good One (*Mt 19:17*).