



Faith Filled People

December

Saint Nicholas

Much of what we know about St. Nicholas is legend. That is, we can't really be sure it's true. But we know that he was born when the Church was new. People who believed in Jesus were punished. Nicholas went to jail because he believed in Jesus. In the early 300's C.E., people were finally allowed to worship. Nicholas became a bishop. He went to one of the first meetings for bishops. It was called the Council of Nicaea. Many rules were made then that still direct our Church today.

Nicholas was born into a family that had a lot of money. When his parents died, he gave all his money away to people who needed it. Legend says that three boys were killed for their money. Nicholas brought them back to life. Another legend tells of three girls who were too poor to get married. Nicholas gave their father money so that they could live good lives as wives. Nicholas did not like to be noticed for the good things he did. He tried to help people without them knowing it.

Nicholas especially tried to help children. That is why many children leave their shoes out on December 6, the day we celebrate the Feast of Saint Nicholas. They hope that St. Nicholas will fill the shoe with a treat. St. Nicholas is remembered as a good and kind bishop. You can honor Nicholas by doing something kind for someone. Try not to let the person find out that you did the nice thing.