

## American Minute with Bill Federer Saint Nicholas & the Origins of Secret Gift-Giving!

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“Eighty-six years have I have served him, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?”  
--declared the aged **Polycarp**, a disciple of the Apostle John, as he stood in 155 A.D. before the Roman judge who ordered him to deny his faith or be killed.

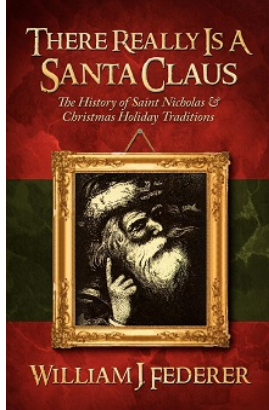


The church had been born into a **one-world anti-christian government -- the Roman Empire**, and experienced three centuries of severe government persecutions.

One of the notable church leaders who was persecuted in the late 3rd century was **St. Nicholas** ... [continue reading ...](#)

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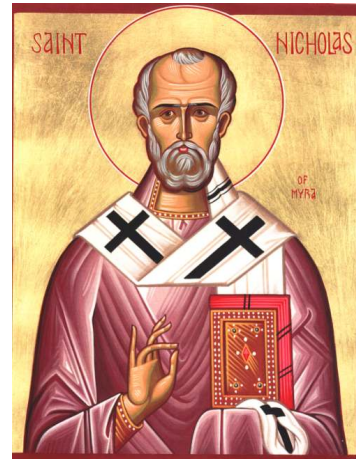
[There Really is a Santa Claus -History of Saint Nicholas and Christmas Holiday Traditions](#)



**St. Nicholas** is the most renowned saint in **Greek Orthodox tradition**, similar to **St. Peter** is in **Catholic tradition**.

**St. Nicholas** is as important to **Greeks and Russians** as

- **St. Patrick** is to the **Irish**; or
- **St. Boniface (Winifred)** to the **Germans**; or
- **St. Thomas** to **India**; or
- **St. Genevieve** to **Paris**; or
- **St Olga** of **Kiev** to **Ukraine**.



**Greek Orthodox tradition** tells of **Saint Nicholas** being born around AD 280, the only child of a wealthy, elderly couple who lived in Patara, Asia Minor (present-day Turkey).

When his parents died in a plague, **Nicholas** inherited their wealth.

**Nicholas** generously **gave to the poor**, but he did so **anonymously**, as he wanted the glory to go to God.



About this time, in the 3rd century, the **pietist-monastic movement** spread, where sincere converts to Christianity would **give away all their money and possessions**, then withdraw from the world to live in a cave as a hermit or **join a monastery**.

One notable incident that occurred during this time in **Nicholas'** life was when **a merchant** in his town had gone bankrupt.



The creditors threatened to take not only his house and property, but also **his children**.

The **merchant** had **three daughters**.

He knew if they were taken it would probably condemn them to tragic lives of forced marriages, sex-trafficking, or prostitution.

The **merchant** had the idea of quickly marrying his daughters off so the creditors could not take them.



Unfortunately, he did not have **money for a dowry**, which was needed in that area of the world for a **legally recognized wedding**.

**Nicholas** heard of the merchant's dilemma and, late one night, **threw a bag of money in the window** for the **oldest daughter's dowry**.

Supposedly the bag of money landed in a **shoe or a stocking that was drying by the fireplace**.

It was the talk of the town when the first daughter was able to get married.



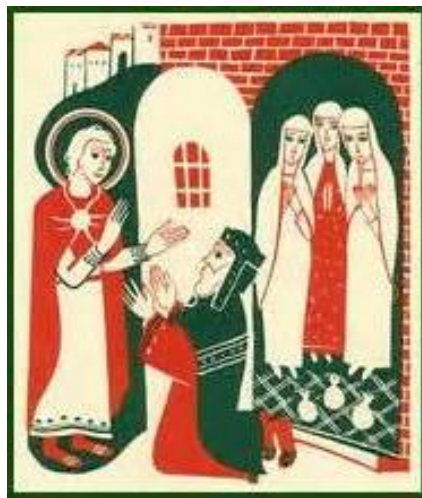
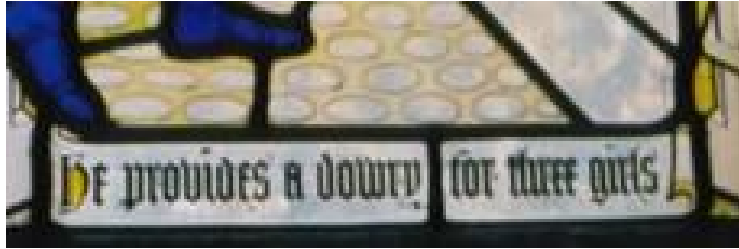
**Nicholas** then threw a bag of money in the window for the **second daughter**, and she was able to get married.

Expecting money

for his **third daughter**, the merchant waited up.



When **Nicholas** threw the money in, the father ran outside and caught him.



**Nicholas** made the father promise not to tell where the money came from, as **he wanted the credit to go to God alone.**

This was the origin of **secret, midnight gift-giving** and **hanging stockings by the fireplace** on the anniversary of **Saint Nicholas' death**, which was **December 6, 343 AD.**

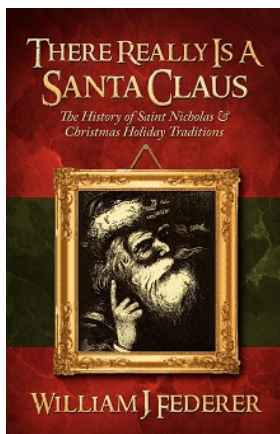


**The three bags of money** which **Nicholas** threw into the house are remembered by **the three gold balls** hung outside of **pawnbroker**



shops -- as they present themselves as **rescuing families** in their time of financial need.

As a result, **Nicholas** became considered the "**patron saint**" of **pawnbrokers**.



[There Really is a Santa Claus -History of Saint Nicholas and Christmas Holiday Traditions](#)

After **Nicholas** had given away all his money, he decided to go on a **pilgrimage to the Holy Land**, where he intended to join the secluded **Monastery of Sion**.

Before making his final vows to join, somehow the Lord impressed upon him **"not to hide his light under a bushel."**

He decided to **go back to Asia Minor**, but not before **visiting the birthplace of Jesus.**

**Mark Twain** wrote in *Innocents Abroad*, 1869, of visiting **the Church of the Nativity:**

"This spot where **the very first 'Merry Christmas'** was uttered in all the world, and from whence **the friend of my childhood, Santa Claus, departed on his first journey**, to gladden and continue to gladden roaring firesides on wintry mornings in many a distant land forever and forever."



**Nicholas** returned to the southern coast of Asia Minor, to the **busy Mediterranean port city of Myra.**

Unbeknownst to him, the **bishop had just died**, and the church leaders could not decide who was to be their next bishop.

One of the church leaders had a dream that the first person to church the next day would be named **"Nicholas"** and **that he was to be their next bishop.**

He, as with many of the pious, would fast all night and not eat until after communion at church, then he would "break the fast," which is the origin of "breakfast."

**Nicholas'** habit was to be the **first person to church.**

The church leaders met him and told him of the dream that he was to be their next bishop.



**Nicholas** was hesitant to accept, as the Roman Emperor was **arresting bishops and killing them.**

He finally relented and became the **Bishop of Myra.**

Soon after, **Nicholas** was arrested and imprisoned during **Emperor Diocletian's brutal persecution of Christians.**



There were **ten major persecutions** of Christians in the first three centuries, and **Diocletian's was the worst.**

**Roman generals** had lost some battles with Persia, and when **Diocletian** asked why, they blamed it on the army neglecting to worship the Roman gods.

**Diocletian issued a mandate** forcing all the soldiers to return to worshipping the Roman gods. This created a problem, as many in the military had become Christians, as the previous emperor had been tolerant.

Once all the **Christians were purged from the military,** **Diocletian** decided to use the military to **force the entire**



## Roman Empire to return to worshipping Roman gods.

This began the **worst persecution** of the first three centuries. **Pastors were arrested**, churches were torn down, scriptures were confiscated, church records were destroyed, believers had their tongues cut out and were burned alive.

Christians cried out in fervent prayer, and suddenly **Diocletian** was struck with an intestinal disease so painful that **he abdicated the throne on May 1, 305 AD.**



The next emperor, **Galerius**, continued the **persecution**, but he was struck with an intestinal disease and died in 311 AD.

With no emperor, the **Roman Empire was thrown into confusion.**

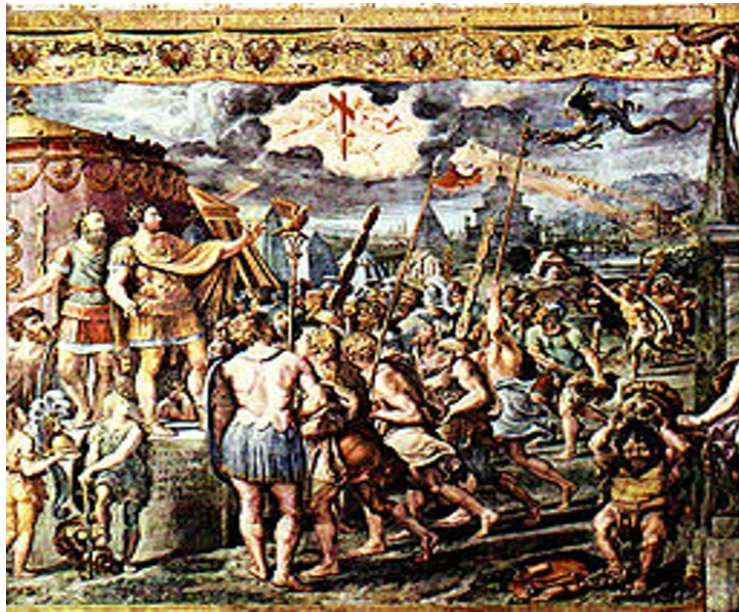
The four major generals decided to fight it out as to **who would be the next emperor.**



**General Constantine** was in **York, Britain**, when he received the news.

His men surrounded him and shouted "Hail Caesar!"

**Constantine** marched toward **Rome** to fight **General Maxentius**.



The day before the **Battle of the Milvian Bridge**, October 28, 312 AD, **Constantine** reportedly saw the **sign of Christ in the sky**.

The **sign of Christ** was the **first two letters** of the **Greek name "Christ."**

The **first letter "X"** is called **"Chi"** and the **second letter "P"** is called **"Rho."**

**Constantine** put the **"Chi-Rho"** or **"XP"** on all his military banners.

After his victory,



he ended the persecution of Christians with the **Edict of Milan in 313 AD** -- the first time in history that **Christians were not persecuted by the government.**

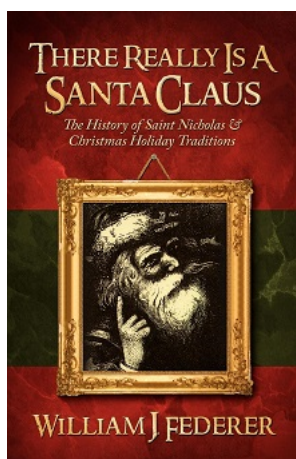


Over the centuries, the **sign of Christ** was shortened to just the **"Chi"** or **"X."**



It was called the **"Christ's Cross"** or **"Criss-Cross."**

This is the origin of **"X-mas."**

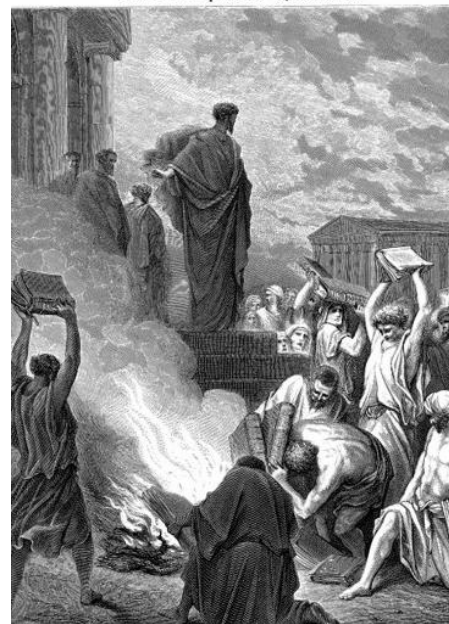


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During the reign of Constantine, **Nicholas was let out of prison.**

Now that it was legal to be a Christian, **he preached publicly against pagan sexual immorality.**

**He condemned** the worship of the fertility goddess **Artemis** or **Diana**, whose temple was nearby, just as the **Apostle Paul** did as recorded in the **Book of Acts, chapter 19.**



The **Temple to Diana at Ephesus** was one of the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**, twice as big as the Parthenon in Athens, having 127 huge pillars -- **and temple prostitutes.**

It was the Las Vegas of the Mediterranean world.

**Nicholas'** fire and brimstone preaching led the people of Myra to **tear down** their **local temple to Diana**, and shortly thereafter, through the preaching of **St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (AD 397-403)**, the people tore down **the enormous temple to Diana at Ephesus.**

During this time, the **Greek Olympics were ended**, which were considered pagan, as they competed naked.



**Nicholas**

preached against divination, human sacrifice, and **exposure of unwanted infants**, which was the Roman pagan equivalent of **abortion and killing babies after birth**.



Then **the first major heresy** in church history began.

A church leader named **Arius** began the **Arian Heresy**, saying Jesus was a created being and less than God.

**Arius** wrote a catchy song, resulting in many **Visigoth immigrants** into Rome converting to **Arianism**.



The heresy not only **split the church, but the Roman Empire**.

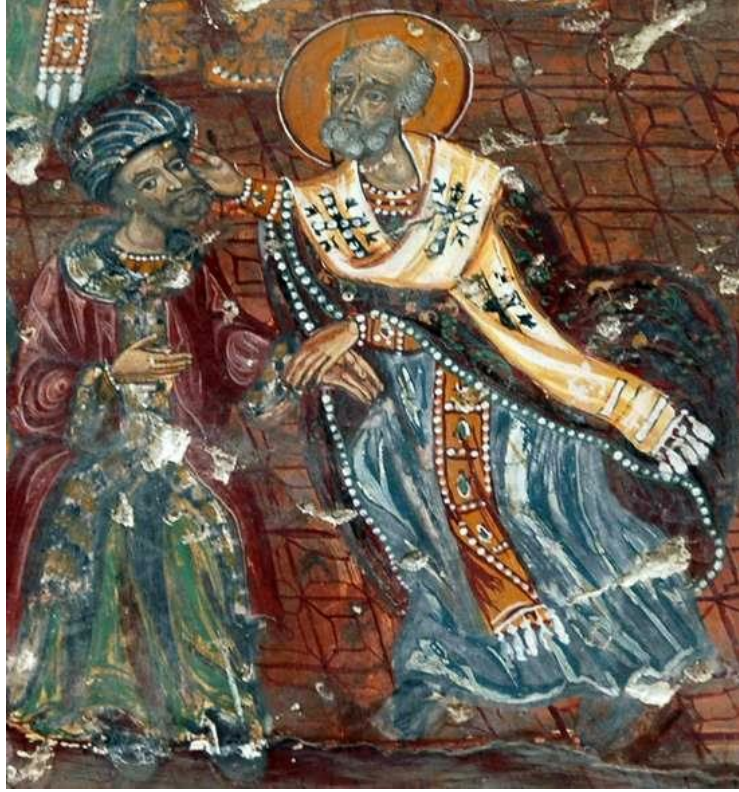
To settle it, **Constantine** ordered all the bishops to come to **Nicea in 325 AD**.

It was the **first time that all the bishops throughout the known world met together**.

There they ended the heresy by writing the **Nicene Creed**.

The tradition is that **St. Nicholas attended the**

**Council of Nicea** and was so upset at **Arius** for starting this heresy that he **slapped him across the face.**



Evidently, Jolly Old St. Nick had a little temper!

Not only did **Nicholas** confront heretics, but also **corrupt government politicians.**

One story was of a **corrupt governor**, in order to cover up his immoral acts, had falsely accused some **innocent soldiers** and sentenced them to be **executed.**



This is similar to some modern politicians who notoriously are accused of having a "body count list" where former associates are involuntarily "suicided."

When **Nicholas** heard of planned executions, he rushed down and broke through the crowd.

He **grabbed the executioner's sword and threw it down**, and then publicly revealed, by the power of the Holy Spirit, what evil the governor had done behind closed doors.



The **Governor**, realizing that **Nicholas** had no way of knowing the details **except by divine insight from God**, fell on his knees and **begged Nicholas to pray for him**.

**Greek Orthodox tradition** attributes many miraculous answers to **St. Nicholas' prayers**.

Once **a storm** was so violent that fishermen and sailors were unable to get back to shore, so the people begged **Nicholas** to help.



He went down to the docks and **prayed, and the sea became calm** so the fishermen and sailors could return safely to port, similar to the way Jesus calmed the sea as recorded in chapter 8 of the Gospel of Matthew.

This led to **Nicholas** later being considered the "**patron saint**" of sailors.

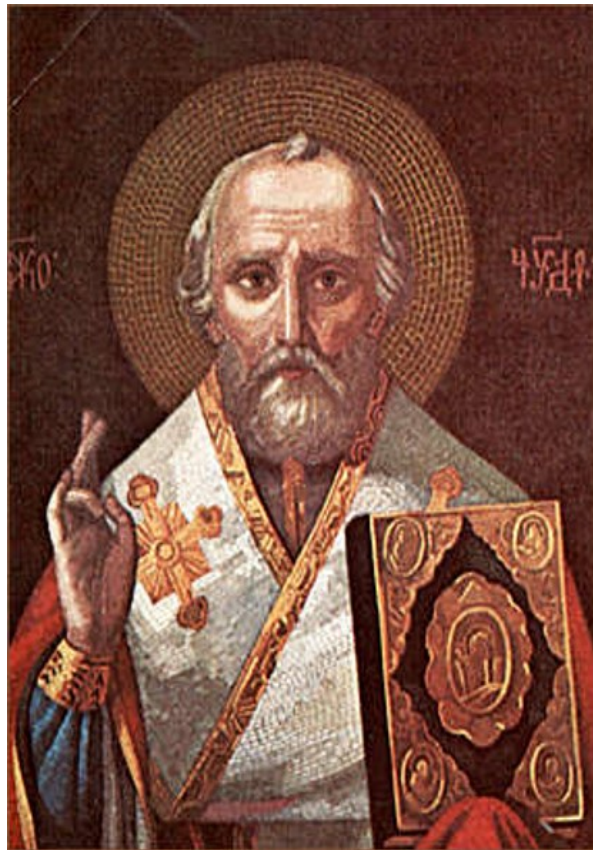
When a famine

spread across the land, **Nicholas** asked **merchant ships** carrying grain from North Africa to Rome, to **unload some grain for his people**, promising that God would bless them.



On their return trip, they reported that **the grain that was left in their ship had multiplied**, like the little widow's meal barrel as promised by Elijah in the First Book of Kings 17:16.

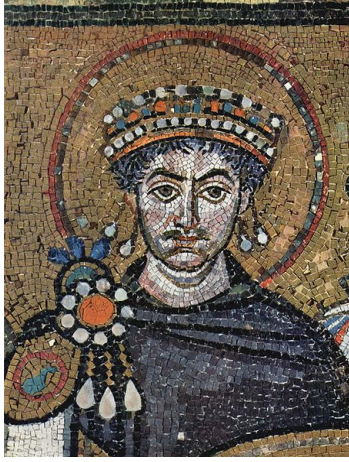
**St. Nicholas** died  
DECEMBER 6, 343 AD.



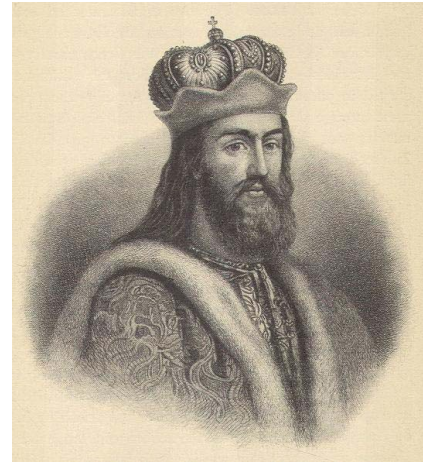
In the 5th century a church was built in **Myra** in his honor.

When it was damaged in an earthquake in 529 AD, **Emperor Justinian** rebuilt it.





In 988 AD, **Vladimir the Great of Russia** converted to **Eastern Orthodox Christianity** and adopted **Nicholas** as the "**patron saint**" of Russia.



In the 11th century, Islamist jihad terrorists, the **Seljuks Turks**, invaded **Asia Minor**, killing Christians and destroying churches.

They also demolished and desecrated **the graves of Christian saints**.

**Islamic Hadith Sahih Muslim** (Book 4, No. 2115) stated:

"Do not leave an image without obliterating it, **or a high grave without leveling it.**"



In a panic, Christians shipped the remains of **St. Nicholas** to the **town of Bari** on the southern coast of Italy in the year

**1087.**

**Pope Urban II** dedicated the church, naming it after **St. Nicholas -- Basilica di San Nicola de Bari.**

This officially introduced the **Greek St. Nicholas** to **Western Europe.**



In the 11th century, Turks intensified their invasion

So many Greek Christians fled that **Pope Urban II** went to the **Council of Claremont in 1095** and called upon European monarchs to send help.

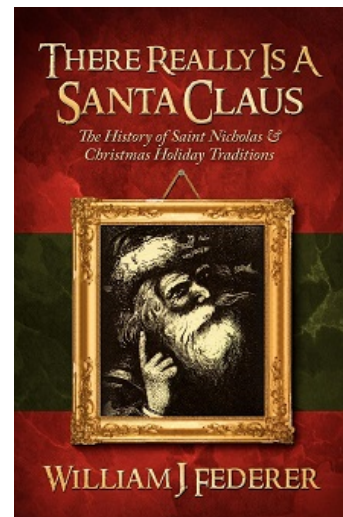


Europe sent help -  
- it was called **the First Crusade.**



In a backwards sense, **Western Europe** might not have had **St. Nicholas traditions** if it had not been for **Islamist jihadis** invading **Eastern Europe**.

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How did **St. Nicholas** become **Santa Claus**?

With **St. Nicholas'** remains now in Italy, **western Europeans quickly embraced the gift-giving traditions associated with him.**

By 1223, so much attention was being given to **gift-giving** during the Christmas season that **Saint Francis of Assisi** wanted to **refocus the attention back to the humble birth of Christ.**

**Francis created the first "creche" or nativity scene**

-- a humble manger of farm animals with the attention being on **Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus** - **the Son of God**

come to dwell among men: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

St. Francis of Assisi, 1223, Nativity Scene



In 1517, **Martin Luther** began the **Reformation**.

He considered "**saints days**" as a distraction from **Christ**, so he effectively **ended saints' days** in **Protestant countries**, including the popular "**St. Nicholas Day**."



Martin Luther began Reformation in 1517

Ended "Saints' Days"

Gifts from Kris Kindle (Christ Child)

Since Germans like the gift-giving, **Martin Luther** moved the **giving** to December 25th to emphasize that **all gifts come from the Christ Child**.

The German pronunciation of **Christ Child** was "**Christkindl**," which over the centuries became pronounced "**Kris Kringle**."

CHRISTKINDL



24. XII. 50

As the **Catholic saying** is that **St. Peter is at the Gates of Heaven**, the **Greek Orthodox tradition** developed from the prophecy that **Jesus would return** at the end of the world to **judge the living and the dead**, riding a **white horse**, and that the **saints would return with him**, riding white horses.

Revelation 19:11-16:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a **white horse**; and **he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name is called The Word of God ...**

... And out of his mouth **goeth a sharp sword**, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a **name written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."**

**Revelation 19:14** added:

"... **fine linen, clean and white** ... is the righteousness of the **saints** ...

And **the armies** which were in heaven **followed him upon white horses**, clothed in **fine linen, white and clean.**"

As **Nicholas** was a **saint**, the reasoning went, he would certainly be **one of multitude returning with Jesus**, riding a **white horse**.



Since **St. Nicholas** was such a special saint, the story became embellished by the **Dutch** to have him **coming back once a year** for a **mini-judgement day**, to check up on the children to see if they are on the right track.

Over the centuries, the story evolved.

**The Lamb's Book of Life** and the **Books of Works** were turned into the **Book of the "Naughty and Nice."**



The **angels** turned into **elves**.

Saints came from **heaven**, the **New Jerusalem**, the **Celestial City** -- which turned into the



## North Pole.

And whereas near the Arctic Circle in **Finnish Lapland**, northern Scandinavian Peninsula, there were few **horses**, **St. Nicholas** rode a **reindeer**.

The capital of **Finland's** province of **Lapland** is **Rovaniemi**, where is located the "**official**" **Santa Claus Village**. After Nazis destroyed **Rovaniemi**, **Eleanor Roosevelt** contributed to help rebuild it and visited there in June of 1950,

In **England** during **Henry VIII's** reign, Christmas celebrations became sort of a **Mardi Gras**.

**Mardi Gras** was originally was a **religious day** at the beginning of **Lent**, followed by 40 days of fasting before Easter, but now is a **lewd party in New Orleans**.

Under **Henry VIII**, the Christmas holiday similarly became a **time of partying, carousing, dancing, gaming, and wassailing--drinking spiced ale** from house to house--and throwing some on apple trees as luck for a good harvest.

When **Puritans** took over **England** in 1642, **they outlawed Christmas**, viewing it as having become **too worldly**.



**Puritan leader, Rev. Cotton Mather** told his congregation, December 25, 1712:

"Can you in **your conscience** think, that **our Holy Savior** is honored, by **Mad Mirth**, by **long**

**Eating**, by **hard Drinking**, by **lewd Gaming**, by **rude Reveling**; by a Mass fit for none but a **Saturn** or a Bacchus, or the Night of a Mahometan Ramadan? You cannot possibly think so!

A Multitude of the Heavenly Host was heard Praising of God. But shall it be said, That at **the Birth of our Saviour** for which we owe as high Praises to God as they can do, we take the Time to **Please the Hellish Legions**, and to **do Actions that have much more of Hell** than of Heaven in them?"

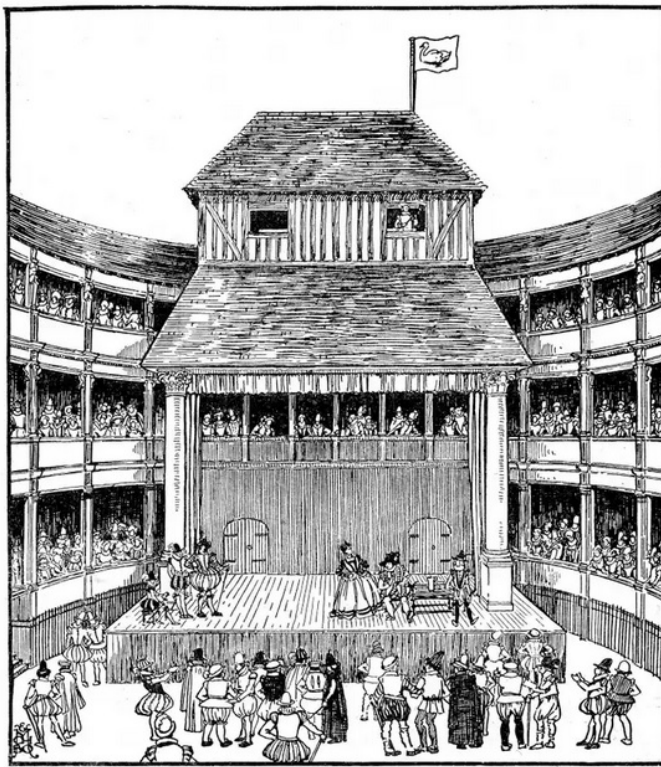
**Puritans** were so **strict** that they **forbade**



**Shakespeare** from mentioning **God** in his plays, considering it **taking God's name in vain** or **casting pearls before swine**.

This led to a period when **Shakespeare** referred to **mythological Greek gods and fates**, such as in *A Midsummer Night's*

*Dream*, 1595-1596, and *Twelfth Night*, 1601-1602, which featured a carnivalesque drunken revelry based on the **ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia**.



**Puritans** considered **theaters dens of iniquity**. They forced the **Globe Theater to close** in 1642, and **pulled it down** in 1644.

When **Pilgrims** first disembarked the *Mayflower*, the ship master, Christopher Jones, wrote in his log, December 25, 1620:

"At anchor in Plymouth harbor, **Christmas Day**, but not observed by these colonists, **they being opposed to all saints' days, etc ...**

A large party went ashore this morning to fell timber and begin building. They began to erect the first house about twenty feet square for their common use, to receive them and their goods."

A year later, at the end of 1621, **Pilgrim Governor William Bradford** recorded in *Of Plymouth Plantation*:

"Herewith I shall end this year – except to recall **one**

**more incident**, rather **amusing** than serious.

On **Christmas Day** the Governor called the people out **to work** as usual; but **most of the new company excused themselves**, and said it **went against their consciences** to work on that day.

So the Governor told them, if they made it **a matter of conscience**, he would spare them till they were better informed.

... So he went with the rest, and left them; but on returning from work at noon he found them **at play in the street**,



some pitching the bar, some at stool-ball, and such like sports.

So he went to them and **took away their games**, and told them that **it was against his conscience that they should play and others work**.

If they made the keeping of **the day a matter of devotion**, **let them remain in their houses**; but there should be no gaming and reveling in the streets."

In 1659, when the **Puritans were settling Massachusetts**, they instituted **a five shilling fine for anyone caught celebrating Christmas**:

"Whosoever shall be found observing **any such day as Christmas** and the like, either by forbearing labor, feasting ... every such person so shall **pay for each offense five shillings as a fine** to the country."

But the **Dutch** loved **Christmas** and the **St. Nicholas traditions**.



The **Dutch holiday tradition** is that **St. Nicholas** comes once a year to **give presents to good children.**

But the **naughty children** had something else to look forward to.

**St. Nicholas** was accompanied by a **Moorish** costumed helper, **Zwarte Piet**, who would **put naughty children into gunny sacks** and take back to Spain where they would **be sold into Muslim slavery.**

So dreadful was the anticipation of **St. Nicholas' visit**, that, according to anecdotal accounts, the night before, **Dutch boys would go to sleep with pocket knives in their pockets** in case they awoke and had to cut themselves out of **Zwarte Piet's gunny sack.**

Beginning in 1624, **Dutch immigrants** brought **St. Nicholas traditions** to **New Amsterdam**, which became **New York** in 1664.

Dutch called **Saint Nicholas** - "**Sant Nikolaus**" or "**Sinter Klass,**"

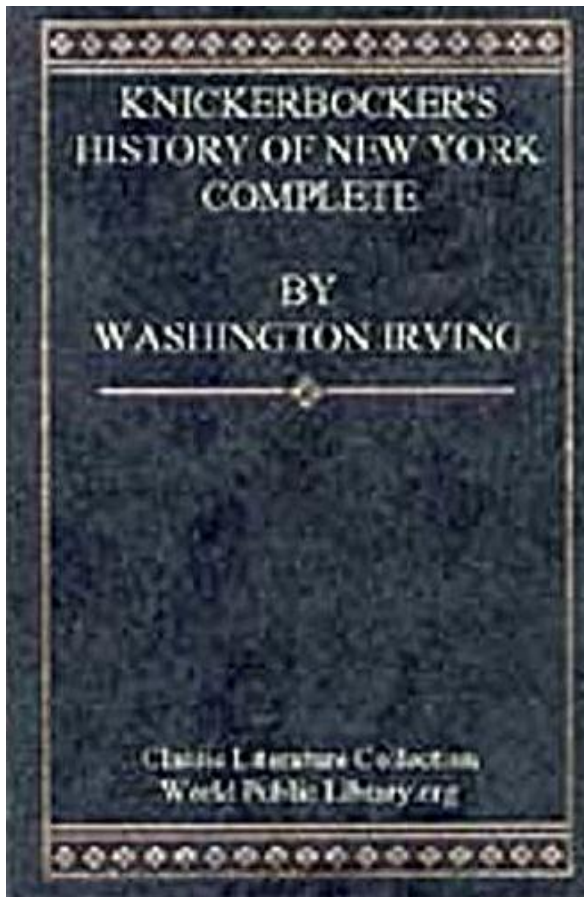


which became pronounced "Santa Claus."

Living in New York was Washington Irving, the author of *Legend of Sleepy Hallow* and *Rip Van Winkle*.



He coined the name for New York as "Gotham City."



Irving also wrote *Diedrich Knickerbocker's A History of New York*, 1809.

In it, he described **St. Nicholas** visiting once a year, but **no longer wearing a bishop's outfit**, but a **typical Dutch outfit of long-trunk hose, leather belt, boots, a hat, and a pipe.**

Irving described:

"A goodly image of **St.**

**Nicholas**, equipped with a **low, broad-brimmed hat**, a huge pair of **Flemish trunk hose**, and a **pipe ...**

The good **St. Nicholas**, who had appeared to him in a dream the night before, and whom he had known by **his broad hat**, **his long pipe.**"



**Washington Irving** wrote further:

"So we are told, in the sylvan days of **New Amsterdam**, the **good St. Nicholas** would often make his appearance in his beloved city, of a holiday afternoon, **riding jollily among the treetops**, or **over the roofs of houses**, now and then **drawing forth magnificent presents from his breeches pockets**, and **dropping them down the chimneys of his favorites ...**

**... He never shows us the light of his countenance, nor ever visits us, save one night in the year; when he rattles down the chimneys of the descendants of the patriarchs, confining his presents merely to the children ...**

The **good St. Nicholas** came **riding over the tops of the trees**, in that self-same **wagon** wherein he brings his **yearly presents to children**. And he descended hard ...  
And he lit his pipe by the fire ...

**... And when St. Nicholas** had smoked his pipe he twisted it in his hatband, and **laying his finger beside his nose**, gave ... a **very significant look**, then

mounting his wagon, he returned over the treetops and disappeared ...

... The **significant sign of St. Nicholas, laying his finger beside his nose and winking hard with one eye ...**"

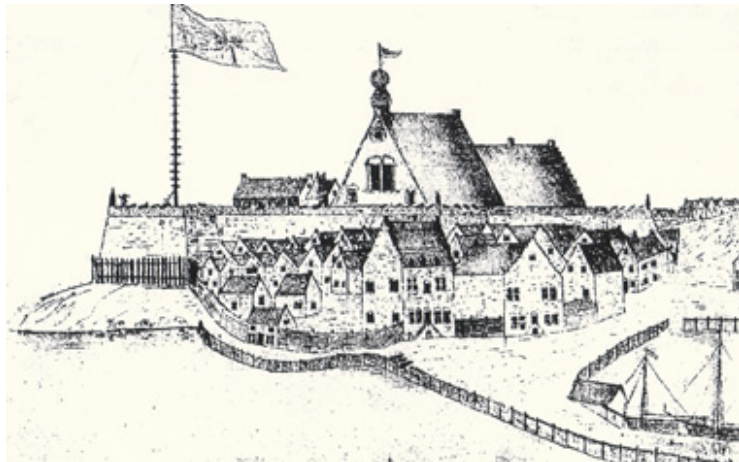
Irving wrote how **Dutch settlers** continued the tradition of **hanging stockings by the fireplace:**

"At this early period was instituted that pious ceremony, **still religiously observed** in all our ancient families of the right breed, of **hanging up a stocking in the chimney on St. Nicholas Eve;**

**... which stocking is always found in the morning miraculously filled;** for the **good St. Nicholas** has ever been a **great giver of gifts, particularly to children ...**

Nor was the day of **St. Nicholas** suffered to pass by without making presents, **hanging the stocking in the chimney,** and complying with all its other ceremonies."

**Washington**  
Irving explained that **St. Nicholas** was not only the **patron saint** of the **Manhattan colony,** but the **namesake** of their **first church,**



begun in 1628, being **the oldest corporate body in what is now the United States:**

"Finally, that they ... should not be required to acknowledge any other saint in the calendar than **St. Nicholas,** who should thenceforward, as before, be considered the **tutelar (patron) saint of the city ...**

**They built a fair and goodly chapel within the fort, which they consecrated to his name ...**



... I am moreover told that there is a little legendary book somewhere extant, written in Low Dutch, which says that **the image of this renowned saint**, which graced the bow-sprit of the (ship) *Goede Vrouw*, was **elevated in front of this chapel ... the great church of St. Nicholas.**"

For over three centuries, **St. Nicholas Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church** was the **oldest congregation in Manhattan** and the **most eminent Protestant church in the city**, often referred to as "**the Protestant Cathedral of New York.**"



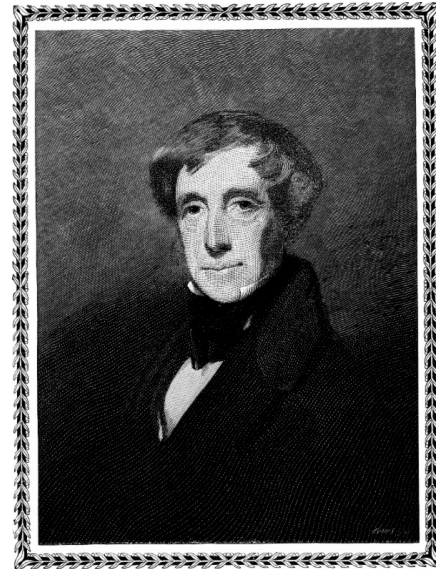
**President Theodore Roosevelt** attended there.

Financial mismanagement resulted in church elders

selling it to the **Sinclair Oil Company**, which demolished it in 1949 to build an office building.

Remaining church members merged with **New York's Marble Collegiate Dutch Reformed Church**.

**Clement Moore** was a Hebrew professor in New York at the **General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church**, which was built on land donated by his family in the neighborhood of **Chelsea**.



**Clement Clarke Moore Park** is located in New York City at the corner of 10th Avenue and 22nd Street.

He helped Trinity Church establish a new church on Hudson Street - **St. Luke in the Fields**.

In 1823, **Clement Moore** wrote a poem for his six children titled "**A Visit From St. Nicholas**":



'TWAS the night before  
Christmas,  
when all through the  
house  
Not a creature was  
stirring,  
not even a mouse;

The stockings were  
hung  
by the chimney with  
care,  
In hopes that **ST.  
NICHOLAS**  
soon would be there ..."

"When, what to my wondering  
eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh,  
and eight tiny reindeer,

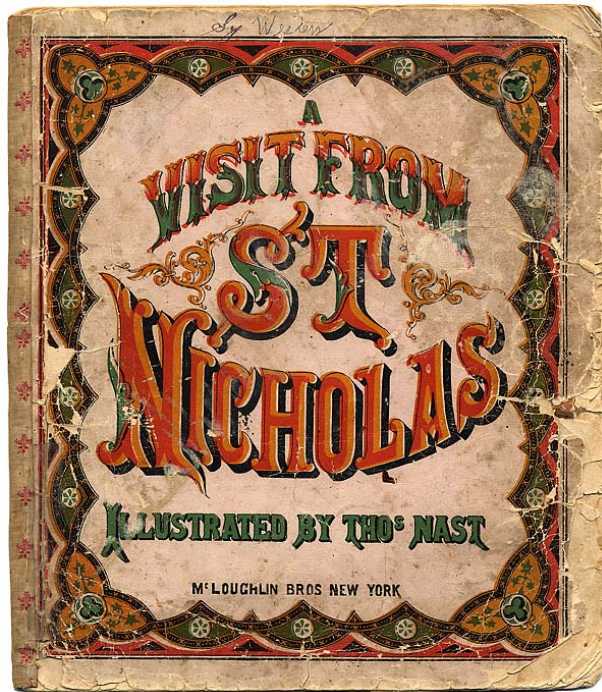
With a little old driver,  
so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment  
**it must be ST. NICK ..."**

"So up to the house-top  
the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys,  
and **ST. NICHOLAS** too ..."

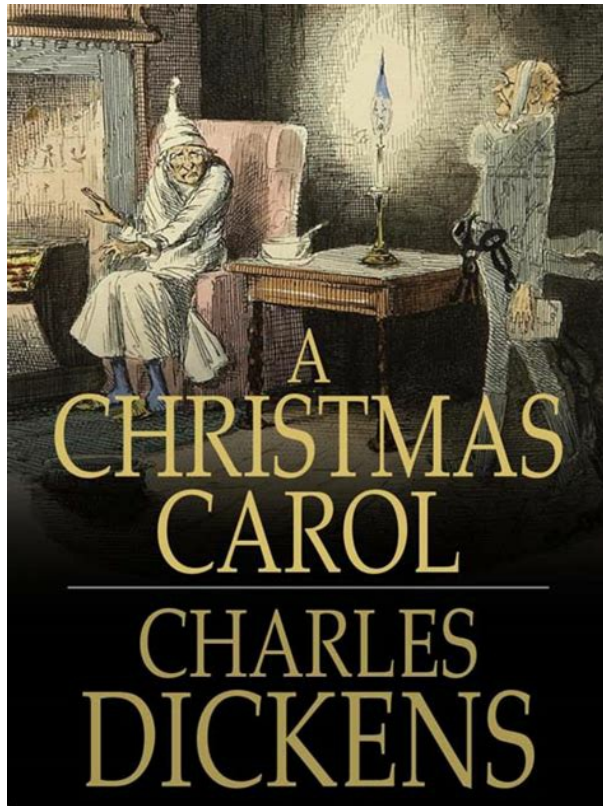
"As I drew in my head,  
and was turning around,  
Down the chimney **ST. NICHOLAS**  
came with a bound ..."

**Clement Moore** described **St. Nicholas** as smaller:

"He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,



And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself."



In 1843, the first lithographic Christmas cards were printed, and Charles Dickens published "A Christmas Carol," with the characters of Scrooge and Tiny Tim.

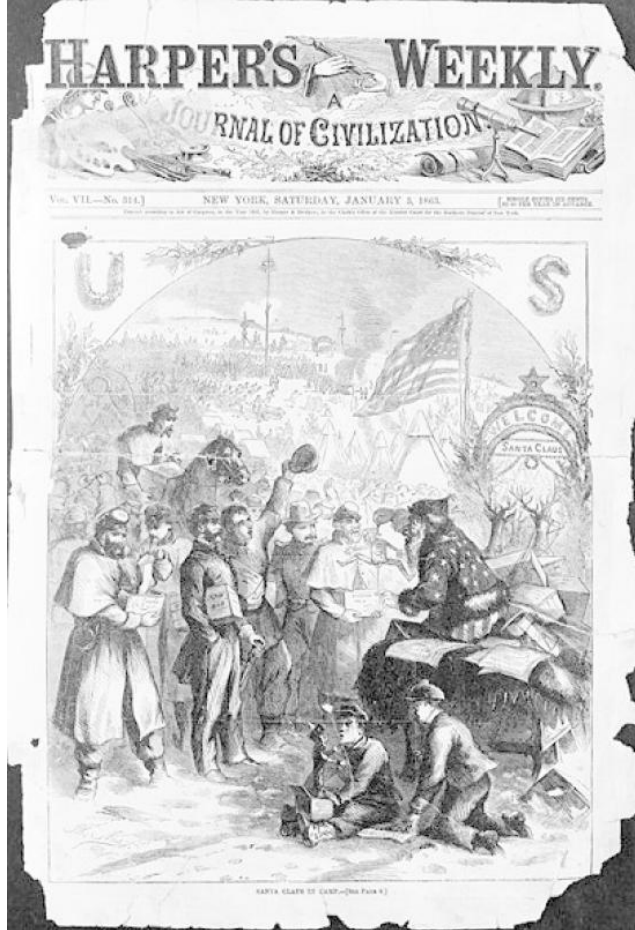
During the Civil War, *Harper's Weekly Magazine* had an illustrator named **Thomas Nast**, famous for creating the **Republican elephant** and **Democrat mule** in his **political cartoons**.

Thomas Nast

illustrator  
*Harper's Weekly Magazine*  
during  
Civil War  
-Rep. Elephant  
-Dem. Mule



**Nast** drew **St. Nicholas** visiting **Union troops** with a **"North Pole"** sign behind **St. Nick** as a political **jab at the Confederate South**.



In the early 1900s, **Haddon Sundblom** was an artist famous for his creation of the **Quaker Oats man** and **Aunt Jemima Syrup**.



**Haddon Sundblom**

- Quaker Oats
- Aunt Jemima



The flavor secret of Aunt Jemima's pancakes turned out to be four flours



When, years, ago and the world was divided in the common day, the first recipe to give you the trademark, four-flour pancakes in one box. The secret that has become a tradition in our land.

After all these years that's still the secret of Aunt Jemima's pancakes—the four flours that in a certain way, "blend" all together, the Aunt Jemima recipe. Not the mix of ingredients of modern mixing methods. Hundreds of people have tried them and gone. But the Aunt Jemima brand is still the best. That's what it's all about. For you can't find it in a store unless you go to the very store with a marketing team of Aunt Jemima products. There, too, you can... 1/2 cup

**NEED ANY MORE PANCAKES?** Aunt Jemima's pancake mix makes it so easy to make Aunt Jemima's pancakes. Just add water and mix. Aunt Jemima's pancake mix is the only one that's so easy to use. It's the only one that's so easy to use. It's the only one that's so easy to use. It's the only one that's so easy to use.

In 1930, **Coca Cola** hired **Sundblom** to create a painting of **Santa Claus drinking Coke**, which he did annually for the next 33 years.

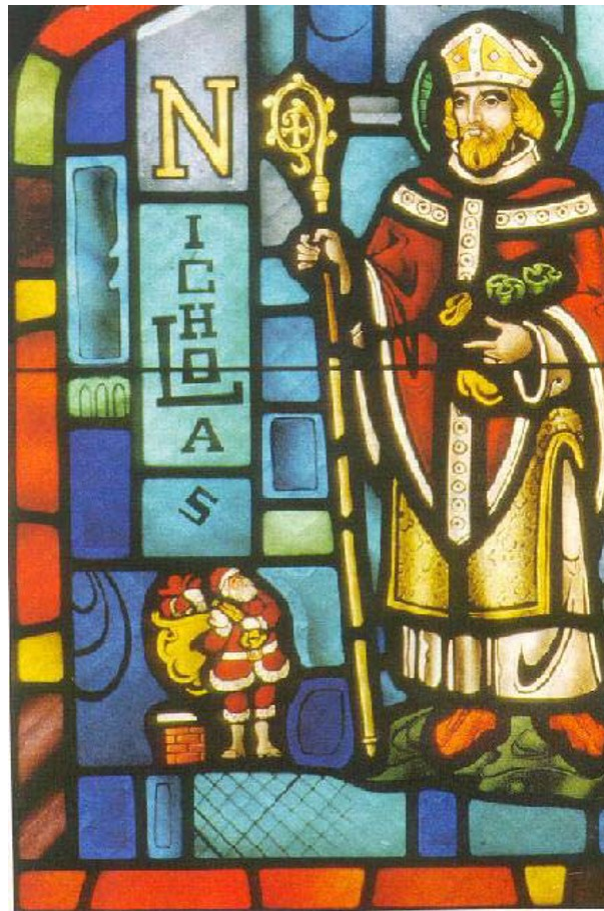
With **Coca Cola** pioneering mass-marketing to become the **most well-known trademark name in the world**, **Sundblom's** version of **Santa Claus** became

the most recognizable.



Though much has been added on to the story throughout the centuries, **underneath it all**, there really was a godly, courageous **Christian Bishop** who lived in **4th century Asia Minor**, named **Nicholas**.

- **Nicholas loved Jesus** enough go into the ministry;
- he chose being **imprisoned by the Romans** rather than **deny his Christian faith**;
- he stood for the **doctrine of the Trinity**;
- he **preached against sexually immoral pagan temples** and the **killing of innocent babies**;
- he **confronted corrupt politicians**; and
- most notably of all, **St. Nicholas was very**

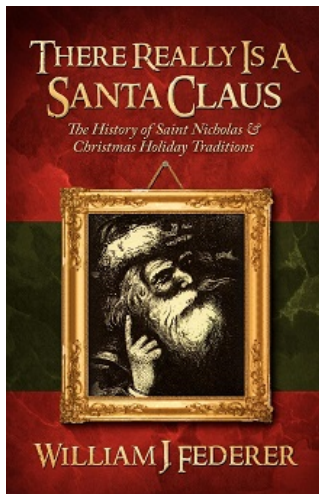


**generous**, giving away all his money to **help the poor in their time of need**, and doing it **anonymously**, as he wanted **the credit to go**, not to himself, but **to God alone!**

--

[Download as PDF ... Saint Nicholas & the Origins of Secret Gift-Giving!](#)

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To find out much more get the fascinating book: [There Really is a Santa Claus-The History of Saint Nicholas and Christmas Holiday Traditions.](#)

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