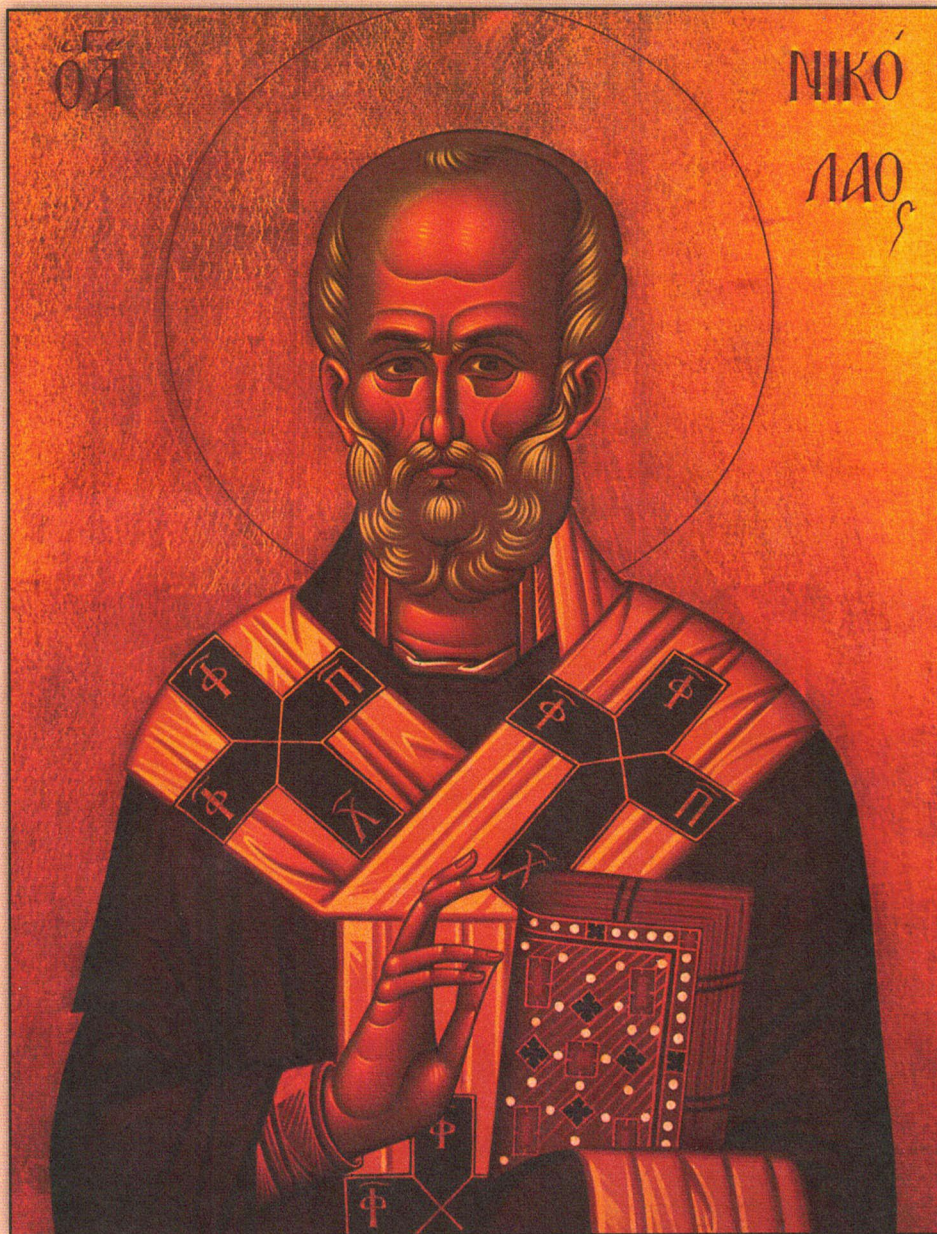


TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644

www.patronagechurch.com / Facebook: Patronagechurch
patronage.church@gmail.com

Office: (410) 247-4936

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Email: vasyl.symyon@gmail.com

Phone: 412-713-4520

Rev. Deacon Anthony Kotlar, Sr.

Assistant: Sharon Kotula

Email: d.kotula@comcast.net

Cantor: Michael Kulka

Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.

Cantor: Ann Marie Kotlar

Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church: 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930 / axxearp@yahoo.com

Next Liturgy: TBD

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
27 th Sunday After Pentecost 12.3.2023	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: +Phyllis, +John, & +Anna Skovran, & +Dorothy & +Andrew Benlock From: Michael Skovran
Tuesday 12.5.2023	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas	For the Intention of the Giver
Thursday 12.7.2023	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy for Maternity of the Holy Anna	For: +Fr. Conan Timoney 4th Anniversary of his Repose From: Patronage Parishioners
28 th Sunday After Pentecost 12.10.2023	11:00am	Divine Liturgy	For: +Sonia Lopatofsky From: M/M Kevin Ross & Family

Today is the **27th Sunday After Pentecost**.
 The Propers for today are on page 130, Tone 2,
 in the teal Liturgy book located in the pews.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confession is available beginning an hour before Divine Liturgy, and ending 15 minutes before the start of services.

HOLY COMMUNION AND VISITATION OF THE SICK: Holy Communion can be brought to parishioners who are ill, in the hospital, or at home. If you would like to receive Communion or a visit by either Fr. Vasyl, or Deacon Tony, you can send the church an email or call either one. Their contact information is on page 1 of this bulletin.

ATTENTION GREEK CATHOLIC UNION (GCU) MEMBERS: Dennis Kotula is Patronage Church's GCU Parish Coordinator, and is working on compiling a list of Patronage Church parishioners who are GCU members. If you are a member, please send him an email at dennis.kotula@gmail.com, and let him know.

LITURGY INTENTIONS: *Liturgy intention books and forms have been updated, and are now available on the bookrack in the Narthex. Forms can also be found on our website.* If you would like to request an Intention, please either call, or email Fr. Vasyl, and let him know. **Checks should be made payable to: Fr. Vasyl Symyon.** You can either mail your Intention request to the rectory, or place it in the offertory basket in the back of our Temple.

MOUNT ST. MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER EVENTS: The following events will take place at Mount St. Macrina, 510 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA. To register for programs or for more information, please call 724-438-7149 or email hpmsm@verizon.net.

1. "Christmas Preparation Retreat Morning," will take place on *Saturday, December 9th from 9:30am - 1pm*, and presented by Fr. Valerian Michlik. The offering is \$40, and includes the conference, Sacrament of Reconciliation, reflection times, prayer service, and lunch. Registration is due by December 4th.
2. "Sanctuary Sessions for Sanity," will take place from 10:30am – noon on *Tuesdays, December 12th, and 19th*. Guided prayer and quiet medication time in the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Free-will offering. No registration required.

2023 BISHOP'S APPEAL: You will be receiving information in the mail shortly regarding this year's Appeal. Pledges and payments will be accepted through June 30, 2024. Any contributions received after December 31, 2023, must be attributed to the 2024 tax year. All checks must be made payable to: Eparchy of Passaic, and not Patronage Church. You may also pledge/donate online at: www.eparchyofpassaic.com. Our parish goal is \$9,800.00, and if we achieve or exceed this amount, our parish will receive a 40% refund of the total received. Contributions from the Hagerstown Mission will also be attributed to Patronage Church's total.

BECOMING BYZANTINE (BYZANTINE CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS): This *Becoming Byzantine* series is a FREE online introduction to Byzantine Catholic faith. This is a series of pre-recorded online presentations (webinars and lessons) for those interested in learning more about the Byzantine Catholic Church, are considering formally joining the Church through baptism or transfer, or already are a Byzantine Christian who desires to go deeper into his or her faith and practice or to learn how to share this faith with others. Please visit www.becomingbyzantine.updates.church for more information, and access to the webinars and lessons.

PRINTER CARTRIDGES: We are collecting used printer cartridges to recycle, and earn rewards to help pay for new cartridges we use to print our weekly bulletins and Liturgical information. You can place your cartridges in the labeled box in the cry room. Many thanks for your contribution!

IN BLESSED REPOSE: JoAnn Schittl, of our Hagerstown Mission, informed us that her sister, +Robin Sevachko, fell asleep in the Lord on November 15th, at Mt. Macrina Manor in Uniontown, PA. Her funeral took place on November 29th, in Uniontown. JoAnn wants to thank everyone for praying for her sister, +Robin. Vičnaja jej pamjat'. Eternal Memory.

A GIFT FROM ST. NICHOLAS: This fundraiser is for the seminarians in Uzhhorod, Ukraine. ***A special collection will be taken up through next Sunday, December 3rd.*** Envelopes marked, "A Gift from St. Nicholas," can be found at the entrances to our church, and all donations can either be mailed to our church, or placed in the offertory basket. Checks should be made payable to: Patronage Church. Cash is also acceptable. Thank you for your support!

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES FOR SALE: We have a variety of religious articles available for immediate purchase. Also, if you want to order a copy of the book, ***Our People – Carpatho-Rusyns and Their Descendants in North America***, written by Dr. Paul Magocsi, please let Sharon Kotula know by today. The cost is \$45.00. Checks should be made payable to: Patronage Church. Cash is also acceptable.

PATRONAGE FREEZER SALE: We have a few things leftover from our festival that were put into our freezer. Please see Mary Demyan, if you are interested. Quantities are limited!

Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki! Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

St Nicholas

M	R	E	B	M	E	C	E	D	I	H	I	F	F
B	B	A	G	S	O	F	G	O	L	D	T	I	N
S	M	R	S	Y	S	E	N	O	A	G	S	R	G
R	H	I	I	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	D
I	H	H	R	N	I	C	H	O	L	A	S	B	A
P	A	R	I	A	R	I	G	I	F	T	S	I	M
R	A	O	E	N	C	E	G	H	T	G	D	S	F
E	B	R	S	A	M	L	A	R	O	B	S	H	T
S	C	F	A	T	R	E	E	N	E	I	C	O	A
E	A	U	C	I	N	S	O	S	T	S	A	P	S
N	E	E	B	V	N	M	M	D	I	C	N	A	E
T	N	G	O	I	H	U	I	I	U	H	D	R	O
S	M	H	A	T	R	I	A	R	R	H	Y	H	H
D	S	B	N	Y	S	G	I	I	F	S	G	C	S

MIRACLES
DECEMBER
SHOES
CANDY
FRUIT
PRESENTS
NICHOLAS
BAGS OF GOLD
NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS
BISHOP
GIFTS

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/107665/>

EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ECF) PROGRAM: Please mark your calendar with these upcoming dates.

- **Sunday, December 3rd** – Make Christmas tree ornaments, Practice Hymn to St. Nicholas, and review the play for St. Nicholas
- **Sunday, December 10th** – St. Nicholas visit and presentation
- **Sunday, December 17th** - ECF Confession opportunity before Christmas
- **Sunday, December 24th** – Christmas Eve Nativity presentation

Any questions, please contact Loui Villanueva at villanuevaluxmundi@gmail.com.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE:

1. On Friday, December 1st, Cousins Plumbing replaced the commode in the Altar Server Sacristy, due to a leak that was not able to be repaired, and is now usable.
2. Thank you to **Kelley Wood** for continually maintaining our AED (Automated External Defibrillator) unit in our social hall. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

PATRONAGE CHURCH SHOPPING BAGS FOR SALE: Christmas is right around the corner. If you haven't gotten our new shopping bag, with the church's logo on it yet, they are \$5 per bag. Please see Mary Demyan, or Sharon Kotula if you would like to purchase any.

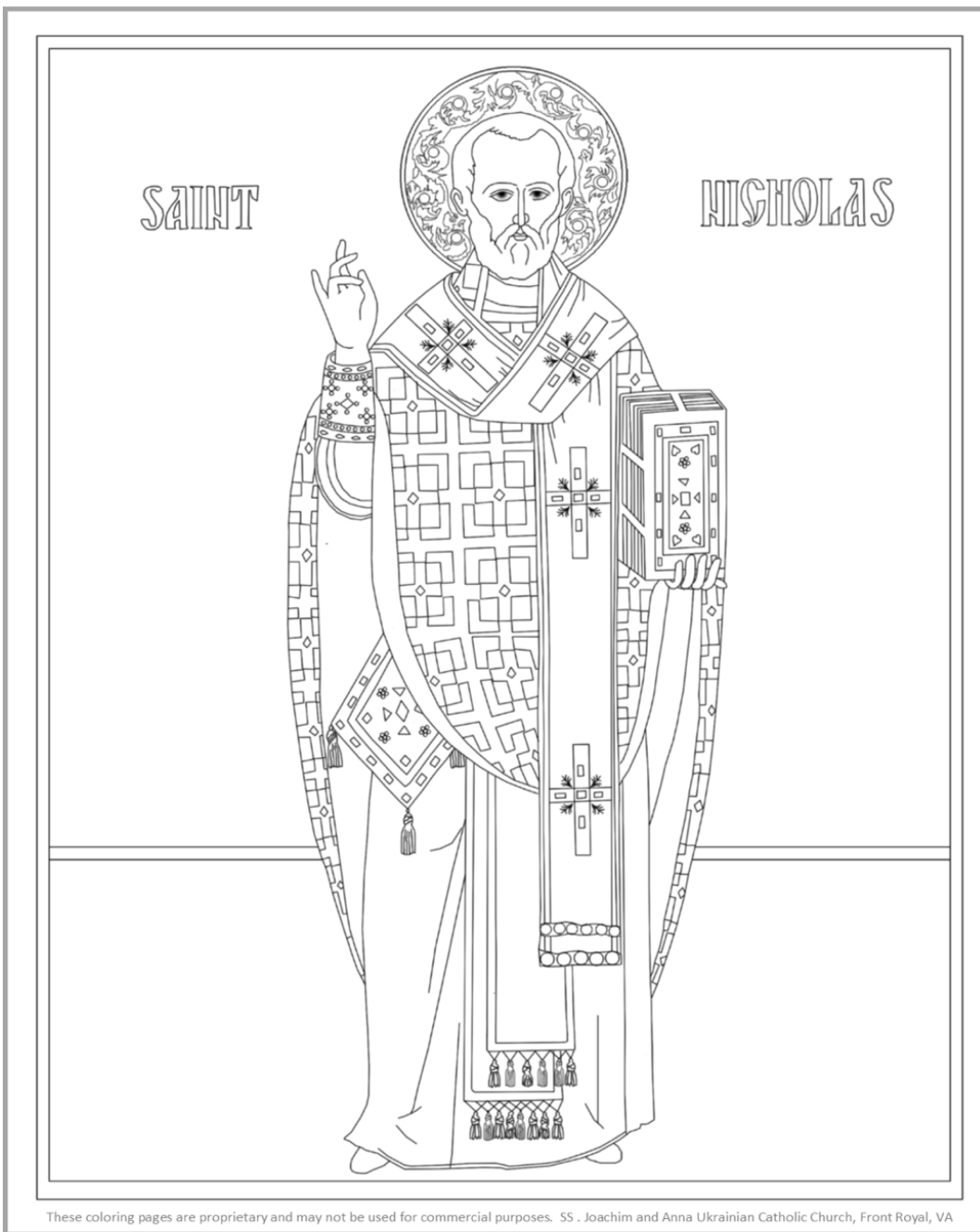
"COME AND SEE:" Produced by the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, this is a resource which aims to share the "Good News" – the transforming message of the Gospel within the context of the Byzantine Catholic tradition, and was designed with a two-fold goal in mind: 1) to be beneficial to all the existing Byzantine Catholics, and serve as the ABCs about our church and tradition, and 2) it is also an invitation to all those who are in search of a new spiritual home, who want to learn more about God and build a lasting personal friendship with Him. It is an introduction about who are and what we believe and it aims to grow awareness and participation in the great Christian richness of our Byzantine tradition and speak about its practices. It is an invitation to a journey to experience the Mystery of God. The cost of this book is only \$5.00, and is located on the book rack in the Narthex. You can place your money in the marked envelope next to the books. Any questions, please contact Sharon Kotula.

ALL-OCCASION CARDS FOR SALE: Sister Seraphim Olsafsky, OSBM, from the Sisters of St. Basil, has turned some of her paintings into all-occasion cards and are being sold in a package of ten. 4 Birthday (2 of 2 designs), 2 Wellness, 2 Congratulations, and 2 Sympathy. Inside each card is an inspirational message and a verse from the Bible. Vicnaja Pamjat! is on the back of the sympathy card, and Mnohaja L'ita! Blahaja L'ita! is on the back of the wellness card. The cost is \$14.50 + shipping & handling. Each card is 4 1/4" X 5 1/2". The order form can be found at <https://sistersofstbasil.org/greeting-cards/>. Please consider purchasing some of these beautiful cards to benefit the Sisters of St. Basil.

BYZANTINE ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP (UPDATED INFORMATION): Patronage Church is planning a Byzantine Icon Painting Workshop with Iconographer, Wayne Hajos. Wayne wrote many icons in our church. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth in our faith! Take advantage of this opportunity! **The class will be held on Saturday, February 3rd and 10th, from 9am – 5pm, and Sunday, February 4th and 11th, from 11:30am – 7:30pm.** The class fee will be \$250 with all supplies included. No art experience is necessary, and we will paint an icon of our church's patron, the Theotokos to register, please send a deposit of \$50, by check, along with your name, and mail it to: Wayne Hajos, 400 Symphony Circle #555, Hunt Valley, MD 21030. The balance of \$200 will be due on the first day of class. Class size is limited to 20 students max, and will be first come, first serve! Registration deadline is January 1st, 2024! If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Ross at keviross@gmail.com, or by text/phone at 570-561-6540.

PARISH CENSUS: We are still missing a few census forms. If you have not completed one, please do so as soon as possible, so that we can update our church records. You can locate a census form on our website, or on the bookrack in the Narthex. Thank you for your assistance!

"JOYFUL LIGHT:" If you would like to receive the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius' electronic newsletter, "Joyful Light," please email your request to development@bcs.edu. The Seminary also welcomes online donations. Those who wish to donate may visit www.bcs.edu, and click on "Giving."



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
 Patron of the Byzantine Catholic Church
 Blessed Feast Day – December 6th

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Vasyl Symyon, Matthew Skovran, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Missy Kakalec, Albert Ondrish, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,
 grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

STEWARDSHIP: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

Patronage Church - November 26, 2023

Offertory: \$924.50 Tithe.ly: \$190.00

“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).

PARISH “CHURCH DECORATING” SOCIAL: Please join us after Divine Liturgy today to help with decorating our Temple and social hall for Christmas, and enjoy some light lunch refreshments provided by the GCU. *Many thanks to the GCU for donating the food for today’s social!* Their continued generosity is greatly appreciated!

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION: *A reminder that next Sunday, December 10th, Liturgy will begin at 11am,* for our parish celebration for the Feast of St. Nicholas. We will be having a presentation by the children in ECF, a special visit from St. Nicholas, himself, along with a **parish pot-luck luncheon**, in our social hall. Anyone wishing to bring pulled pork or Sloppy Joes, please email Mary Demyan at mdemya1@verizon.net. Our church will provide the rolls. *To make our St. Nicholas event more festive, we are encouraging everyone to wear a holiday sweater or shirt.*

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE: Fr. Vasyl has prepared the Divine Liturgy Christmas schedule, and is enclosed with this bulletin. Please make note of dates and times.

ANNUAL PATRONAGE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE: Our parish is sponsoring a Poinsettia sale. Enclosed in this bulletin is an order form, and all orders must be received by **Sunday, December 17th**. You can either mail your completed form to the church, or place it in the offertory basket. *Please make checks payable to: Patronage Church.* Each commemoration will be published in a special insert of the Christmas bulletin.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at patronage.church@gmail.com.

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).

Patronage of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church

Schedule of Christmas Services 2023

The Feast of the Nativity

Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho!

SATURDAY, December 23, 2023 – Vigil Divine
Liturgy for Sunday Before Christmas: 4pm

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023 – NO MORNING
LITURGY

SUNDAY, December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve –
Compline with St. John Chrysostom Liturgy – 4pm

MONDAY, December 25, 2023 – Nativity of our Lord
- Divine Liturgy – 9am



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Our parish is once again sponsoring a Christmas poinsettia sale. The flowers will be placed within the church and altar for Christmas Divine Liturgy. Each commemoration will be published in a special insert of the Christmas Bulletin.

Plants may be taken by the giver after Christmas Liturgy. Please place the order form and payment in the offering basket or mail to the rectory by **Sunday, December 17th**. Make checks payable to *Patronage Church*.

Name of Giver: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$12.00 each

Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

Name of Giver: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Type of poinsettia (*check one*): \$12.00 each

Red ____ White ____ Pink ____ Marble ____

TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED ____ x \$12.00 = \$ _____

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was

unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.