
St. Nicholas of Myra is widely held to be the original Santa Claus
Nīcolāus dē Myrā ca. 270 A.D. to ca. 345 A.D.

Adapted from Symeon Metaphrastes' *Stories of Christianity*

Nīcolāus dē Myrā erat Epīscopus Ecclēsiae Christiānae urbis Myrae in Āsiā Minōre.

**Persecūtiōnem Rōmānī Imperātōris Diocletīānī Nīcolāus tulit. Quandō Cōstantīnus factus est p̄mus
Christiānus Imperātor Rōmānōrum, Nīcolāus liberātus est et iterum Christiānōs in Myrā cūrāvīt.**

Mortuus est sextō diē Decembris.

**Nīcolāus hominēs dīlēxit. Praecipuē liberōs amāvīt. Fābulae dē eō multae sunt. Divītiās dē patre
habuit, et dōna, praecipuē in nātālī Iēsū, liberīs dedit. Post mortem Nīcolāi, hominēs dōna dedērunt in
nātālī Iesū et dīxērunt, “Sunt dōna Sāctī Nīcolāi.”**

**In multās terrās fābulae Sāctī Nīcolāi portātae sunt. Fōrmae nōminis eius sunt “Sinterklaus” et
“Santa Claus.”**

Vocabulary

am·ō 1 to love
Cōstantīn·us –ī m Constantine, Roman commander and
emperor
cūr·ō 1 to take care of, to care for
Decemb·er –ris m December
dō dare dedī datum to give
dīc·ō –ere dīxī dictum to say
di·ēs –ē m day
dīlig·ō –ere dīlēxī dīlēctum to love above all others, even oneself
divīti·ae –ārum fpl riches
dōn·um –ī n gift
ecclēsi·a –ae f church
epīscop·us –ī m bishop
etiam *adv* also
fābul·a –ae f story
factus est (he) was made
ferē *adv* almost
fōrm·a –ae f form
frīg·us –oris n cold
hīc *adv* here
hom·ō –inis m human being, man; *pl* people
imperāt·or –ōris m commander, emperor

in nātālī Iēsū on the birthday of Jesus
iterum *adv* again
liber·ī –ōrum mpl children
liber·ō 1 to set free
mor·s –tis f death
mortuus est he died
Myr·a –ae f a city in Asia Minor
nātālis nātālis m birthday
Nīcolā·us –ī m Nicholas
nōm·en –inis m name
pater patris m father
persecūti·ō –ōnis f persecution
post *prep w acc* after
praecipuē especially
p̄m·us –a –um first
quandō *conj* when
Sāctus Nīcolāus Sāctī Nīcolāi m Saint Nicholas
sextō diē on the sixth day
similiter *adv* likewise, similarly
terr·a –ae f land
tulit he endured
urb·s –is f city

Translation

Nicholas of Myra ca. 270 A.D. to ca. 345 A.D.

Adapted from Symeon Metaphrastes' *Stories of Christianity*

Nicholas of Myra was Bishop of the Christian Church of the city of Myra in Asia Minor. He endured the persecution of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. When Constantine was made the first Christian Emperor of the Romans, Nicholas was freed and again took care of the Christians in Myra. He died on the sixth of December.

Nicholas loved mankind. He especially loved children. The stories about him are many. He had riches from his parents, and he gave gifts to children, especially on the birthday of Jesus. After the death of Nicholas, people gave gifts on the birthday of Jesus and said, "They are gifts of Saint Nicholas."

The stories of Saint Nicholas were carried into many lands. Forms of his name are "Sinterklaas" and "Santa Claus."