

Welcome to St Nicolas

Patronal Mass with Baptism,
Reception into Communion
& Confirmation

Welcome

*If you are visiting or here for the first time,
know that you are welcome.*

*If you would like to stay in touch, do fill in a WELCOME
FORM and return it to the Rector or a Welcomer.*

*Toilets and baby changing facilities are just in the
hall - please do ask if you need to make use of them.*

*During **today's service** there is a JUNIOR CHURCH
for children in Infants and Junior school.*

*We are especially pleased to welcome the families and
friends of those who are to be Welcomed, Baptised and
Confirmed today by Bishop Andrew.*

***After the service**, please do join us in the
parish hall for coffee, fizz and cake to celebrate St
Nicolas' Day and our newest members making their
profession of faith.*

Organ Voluntary *Prelude on Veni, Emmanuel – R Erickson*
Before the first hymn, the Second Advent Candle is lit

Processional Hymn 5
The Preparation & Greeting

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Bishop There is one body and one spirit.
All There is one hope to which we were called

Bishop One Lord, one faith, one baptism
All One God and Father of all.

Bishop Peace be with you.
All And also with you.

The Choir will sing *Kyrie eleison*, Lord, have mercy, *Darke in F*, during which the *Icons of St Nicolas* are censed.

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray.
A period of silence is kept.

Bishop Almighty Father, lover of souls,
who chose your servant Nicolas
to be a bishop in the Church
that he might give freely
out of the treasures of your grace:
make us mindful of the needs of others
and, as we have received, so teach us also to give;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

(11.1-10)

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader For the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Reader A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to Rome

(15.4-13)

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader For the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 8

The Gospel

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Saint Matthew.

(3.1-12)

All sing ✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is

lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All sing Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Liturgy of Initiation

The Presentation of the Candidates

The Bishop asks those who are to be baptized:

Bishop Do you wish to be baptized?

Candidates I do.

The Bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized:

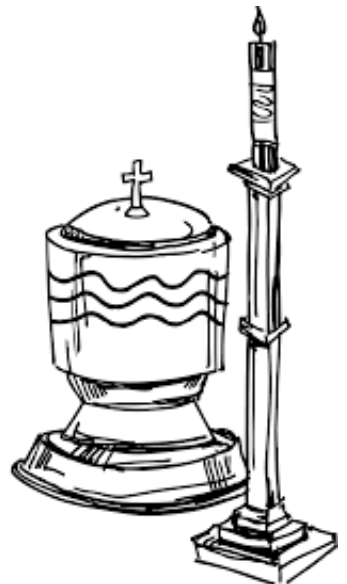
Bishop Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

Candidates I have.

The Bishop asks all the candidates

Bishop Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

Candidates I am.



The Bishop addresses the whole congregation

Bishop Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.
People of God,
will you welcome these candidates and
uphold them in their life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

The Decision

The Paschal candle is lit.

The Bishop addresses all the candidates

Bishop In baptism, God calls us out of darkness
into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin
and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Candidates **I reject them.**

Bishop Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Candidates **I renounce them.**

Bishop Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God
and neighbour?

Candidates **I repent of them.**

Bishop Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Candidates **I turn to Christ.**

Bishop Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
Candidates **I submit to Christ.**

Bishop Do you come to Christ,
the way, the truth and the life?
Candidates **I come to Christ.**

Signing with the Cross

A priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying:

Priest Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

Bishop Do not be ashamed to confess
the faith of Christ crucified.

All **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ
to the end of your life.**

Bishop May almighty God deliver you
from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory;
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Hymn 339 *is sung as the candidates for Baptism and Confirmation
gather at the font*

Prayer over the Water

The Bishop stands before the water of baptism

Bishop Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Bishop We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from death of sin to newness of life.
We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.
✠ Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The Bishop addresses the congregation

Bishop Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with our brother the faith of the Church.

Bishop Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
All I believe in **God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
All I believe in **Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?
All I believe in the **Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, ✠ the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Reception into the Church of England *Declaration*

Those who are to be received into the communion of the Church of England stand before the president to make this declaration.

Priest You are here to be received into the communion of the Church of England.

Do you acknowledge the Church of England as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

Candidate **I do.**

Priest Do you accept the teaching, discipline and authority of the Church of England?

Candidate **I do.**

Priest Will you take part with us in worship and mission?

Candidate **I will.**

Bishop Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship
in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect
in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen**

The Bishop extends his hands towards those who are to be received

Bishop God of mercy and love, by one Spirit we have all been baptized into one body and made to drink of the one Spirit; we thank you for the gifts you have given to these your servants for the building up of the body of Christ. Grant that they may continue in the life of the Spirit and walk with us in the light and obedience of Christ. By the same Spirit, fill the whole Church with your overflowing love; give us knowledge and discernment of your will, and steadfastness in your service, until we all come to the unity of the faith, to the measure of the full stature of Christ, through whom we make our prayer.

All Amen.

The Bishop takes the hand of those to be received

Bishop Johanna, we recognize you as a member of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; and we receive you into the communion of the Church of England in the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Baptism

The Bishop addresses the candidates

Bishop Is this your faith?

Candidate **This is my faith.**

The priest pours water on the candidate

Priest I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Bishop May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

Choir Motet *Think of how God loves you – James MacMillan*

Think of how God loves you. He calls you his own children, and that is what you are. You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptised. Alleluia!

During the Motet the candidates process to the Chancel step.

The people are sprinkled with Holy water.

The Confirmation

The Bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed at the Chancel step

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who has made heaven and earth.
Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord
All now and for ever. Amen.



The Bishop extends both hands towards those to be confirmed

Bishop Almighty and ever-living God,
 you have given these your servants new birth
 in baptism by water and the Spirit,
 and have forgiven them all their sins.
 Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
 the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
 the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
 the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
 and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.
All Amen.

The Bishop anoints each candidate with oil

Bishop N, God has called you by name
 and made you his own.

The Bishop then lays both hands on the head of each

Bishop Confirm, O Lord, your servant N
 with your Holy Spirit.
Candidate Amen.

When all the candidates are Confirmed, we say together

All **Defend, O Lord, these your servants
with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit
more and more until they come to your
everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

The Welcome and Peace

Bishop **There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.**

All **We welcome you in the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Bishop **God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

All **And also with you.**

Deacon **Let us offer one another a sign of peace.**

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn 11 *(omit verses 3 and 4)*

*During which a collection for the Bishop of Guildford's
Communities Fund will be taken.*



The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar Taking of the Bread and Wine

The___ Lord___ be with you and___ al - so with you.

Lift____ up your_ hearts.____ We lift them to___ the Lord.____

Let us give thanks to___ the Lord_ our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.____

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,
your living Word, through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Choir *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

Lord you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your ✠ Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me. ✠**
In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
**Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. ✠**

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith.



Bishop And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
 his perfect sacrifice made once
 for the sins of the whole world;
 rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
 and looking for his coming in glory,
 we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
 As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
 we bring before you this bread and this cup
 and we thank you for counting us worthy
 to stand in your presence and serve you.
 Send the ✠ Holy Spirit on your people
 and gather into one in your kingdom
 all who share this one bread and one cup,
 so that we, in the company of Blessed Mary, Nicolas, George,
 Catherine, Benedict, Helena and all the saints,
 may praise and glorify you for ever,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;
 ✠ by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
 for ever and ever. ✠ ✠ ✠

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop At the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching we dare to say,

**All Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

Bishop Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe
from all distress, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All For thine is the kingdom, the power and the
glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread

Bishop We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

Bishop Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Agnus Dei

Choir *O Lamb of God the takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Lamb of God the takest away the sins of the world
Grant us thy peace*

Communion Motet E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come – Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him, who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!*

Prayer after Communion

Bishop God of mercy,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

The Sending Out

Bishop Those who are baptized
are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread,
and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop Will you acknowledge Christ's authority
over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak,
and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Bishop May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The Rector gives all the newly confirmed a lighted candle lit from the Pascal candle.

Bishop God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life

All Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.

Procession to the Statue of Our Lady

The Angelus

The altar party process to the Statue of Our Lady and together we sing the Angelus.

Angelus

1. The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary: and she conceived by the Ho - ly
2. Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me a - cord - ing to thy
3. And the word was made flesh: and dwelt a - mong

7

Spirit. Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with Thee Blessed art thou among women and
word us.

12

blessed is the fruit of thy womb Je - sus; Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now

19

and at the hour of our death, A - men Pray for us O Holy Mother of God

25 Response accompanied

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. (Collect) A - men.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, pour Thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Passion and Cross we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord,
All who has made heaven and earth.

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord,
All now and for ever. Amen.

Bishop The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in the light and peace of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.

*The Bishop leads the newly-baptized and confirmed through the church,
carrying their candles.*

Recessional Voluntary: *Prelude on Veni, Emmanuel* – Robert J
Powell

*Bishop of Guildford's
Communities Fund
(BGCF)*



The Collection for this service will be donated to the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund, which exists to reach out to disadvantaged and vulnerable people across the Diocese of Guildford in the name of Christ. Grants are offered to projects initiated by Church of England churches (and those in active partnership with them) seeking to address local needs so as to create a stronger, fairer and more sustainable society. The Fund relies on your donations to finance its vital work, not least given the pockets of surprising poverty in what is generally regarded as an affluent part of the country. If you wish to know more about the Fund's work, please visit our website: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/bgcf>

*Do join us for drinks
in the Parish Hall after Mass.
You are most welcome.*

And if you want to know a little more about Nicolas ...

The legend says that young Nicolas sought God earnestly, learned scriptures, fasted often, and prayed much. His parents died while he was still a young man, and he inherited their property. From the start, he determined to use it for good. He gave assistance secretly, not wishing his good deeds to be seen. For example, when he learned that a local nobleman had fallen on hard times and was contemplating selling his daughters into prostitution, he secretly threw the gold into the house to enable the girls to marry and escape degradation. Some versions say he threw the gold down the chimney where it lodged in stockings they had hung up to dry. By such tactics, he rescued many people from moneylenders and provided clothes for the homeless.

Later he sailed to Palestine to tour the places where Christ had walked. On the way, says the story, Satan raised a great storm, hoping to destroy the ship. Desperate, the sailors cried to Nicolas to pray for them. He did, and the sea immediately became calm. Shortly afterward, one of the sailors slipped while climbing the mast and fell to the deck where he lay dead. In answer to Nicolas' prayers, God restored the seaman to life.

After visiting the shrines at Jerusalem, he boarded a ship for Lycia. The Lord had forbidden him to become a hermit as he wished. Plotting evil, the sailors steered in the wrong direction. Nicolas prayed. A storm arose and blew the boat to Lycia.

St. Nicolas in Myra

Myra was the chief city of Lycia. Nicolas headed to Myra. About the time of his arrival, the city's bishop died. The church seemed ready to split as its leaders argued who should be the next bishop. At that point, one of the bishops was instructed in a vision to choose the man who came to church earliest in the morning. It so happened that Nicolas was the first to the church, for he rose at midnight each night to begin his day of prayer. When questioned, he responded so meekly that the assembled bishops agreed he was God's choice. As

bishop of Myra, Nicolas resisted tyrants and taught the truth, especially rejecting the Arian heresy. His people loved him. Whereas before, he had done his acts of charity anonymously, he now realized that he must act openly, for he must be an example to his people. "The doors of his house were open to all. He was kind and affable to all, to orphans he was a father, to the poor a merciful giver, to the weeping a comforter, to the wronged a helper, and to all a great benefactor." He brought down a local temple of the goddess Diana, confronted unjust rulers, defended individuals who were falsely accused, and prayed for relief during a famine. Nicolas attended the Council of Nicea, where he was almost stripped of his office because frustrated with the claims of Arius against Christ, he slapped him. He was required to apologize.

Saint Nicolas' Day

After a short illness, Nicolas died on this day, December 6, somewhere between 341 and 352. His body was laid in state in his church. Myrrh is said to have flowed from him. In the eleventh century, Italians took his relics to Bari, Italy, supposedly to preserve them from Muslim invaders. That is where they remain. It is claimed that myrrh still oozes from the relics and has a special virtue to heal the sick. In Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands, gifts are given on Nicolas's day and in the United States, on Christmas day. Russia holds him as a patron saint. In fact, on March 13, 2001, A delegation of the Catholic Archdiocese of Bari, Italy brought a portion of the relics of St. Nicolas to the Russian Patriarch as a gesture of goodwill.