## ST. NICHOLAS

O good holy Nicholas,
you who brought joy to children,
put in my heart the spirit of childhood
about which the Gospel speaks.
Teach me how to sow
happiness around me.

O Saint of love,
be a guide for us
in our lives, we pray,
that we may
create joy for each other,
as you have done for so many.
Amen.

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas. Born during the third century to wealthy Greek parents in what is now Turkey, Nicholas was raised to be a devout Christian. He was orphaned at a young age when both his parents died in an epidemic when Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," he used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. Nicholas dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. He became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships. Under Emperor Diocletian, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th.



God of joy and cheer,
we thank you for your servant,
the good bishop Nicholas.

In loving the poor,
he showed us your kindness;
in caring for your children,
he revealed your love.

Make us thoughtful
without need of reward
so that we, too,
may be good followers of Jesus.
Amen

# December 6 is St. Nicholas' Feast Day
# Merry Christmas to all our DRAPCE families!