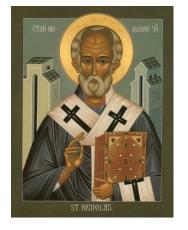
St. Nicholas Day Appeal

The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia





Almighty God, in your love you gave your servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea: Grant, we pray, that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

As we enter into Advent, one of the holiest seasons of the Christian year, our diocese's annual St. Nicholas Day Appeal is one significant way that we can adjust our focus to the mission that the Son of God ushers into our world.

This year, the donations made will be earmarked for the emerging Appalachian Alliance mission involving Grace House and four of our parishes. This year's St. Nicholas Appeal will seed a new mission initiative named The Rev. B. Lloyd Appalachian Mission Fund in memory of B. Lloyd and his faithful commitment to needs of the people of Appalachia. The Rev. B. Lloyd, a long serving priest in this diocese who died this fall, was a pioneer of The Appalachian People's Service Organization (APSO), which later became Episcopal Appalachian Ministries (EAM).

Please consider faithfully how you might support this effort, either by mailing donations (payable to Diocese of SWVA) to the St. Nicholas' Day Appeal or by donating online at www.dioswva.org.

It is a charitable love for the neighbor that is honored in St. Nicholas, and this annual appeal allows us to share with others in this season of giving.

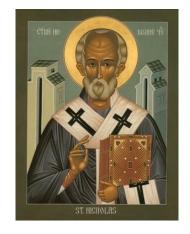
Peace,

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Please mail donations to: St. Nicholas Day Appeal PO Box 2279 Roanoke, VA 24009

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The Rt. Rev. Mark Allen Bourlakas