

Every day should be Mass
and Communion Day for your
Parents' Spiritual Bouquet.

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The mother of Jerry
Brennan (Z) died last
Saturday morning.

Santa Claus and St. Nick.

Santa Claus is a Catholic. Another name for him is St. Nicholas; St. Nick, for short. And he is far from a legendary figure. Only last week the Church celebrated his feast day.

Christmas brings many wonders to little children. On Christmas Eve when they go to bed there are no toys under the Christmas tree and the stockings they have hung on the fireplace are empty. But in the morning the living room is a paradise of toys and good things to eat. The children make inquiries: who visited their house on Christmas Eve? Many parents tell the children that St. Nick came during the night and left the gifts.

This is not all fairy tale, associating St. Nicholas with Christmas. It is said that one day Nicholas discovered that three young girls in his diocese--he was bishop of Myra in Italy in the fourth century--were in trouble. They were about to take up a life of sin because they could not make an honorable marriage. All three were poor and it was impossible for them to secure the necessary dowry associated with marriage in those ancient days. St. Nicholas came by their homes and secretly, unseen and unannounced, left money on the fireplace for the poor girls. Santa Claus and St. Nick worked along the same lines of charity; they used the same secret method of delivery. So Santa is often called St. Nick.

Our Blessed Savior wants every one to be another St. Nick, not only at Christmas time, but every day. Christ wants all His followers to perform unseen and unannounced acts of charity, too. "When thou givest alms, do not let thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing, so that thy alms may be given in secret; and thy Father, who sees in secret, will reward thee."

A notable case of this secret charity is that of the marriage feast of Cana. The wine was running low. Our Blessed Lady did not want the bride and groom to be embarrassed. Without mentioning a word to them, she quietly went to Our Lord and told Him the story. Christ changed water into wine lest the happiness of the newly-weds be spoiled.

Suppressing a yell in the corridor seems like nothing at all, yet it is a form of secret kindness--to shout, or talk loud, or to slam doors, disturbs others who are studying, and that's unkindness. Consideration for others is an everyday affair.

The janitor receives a wage for his work. Why add to his work by throwing paper on the classroom floor? It's charity to save a workman an extra job. Do you think of the maid who cleans your room? It's charity to keep your room in order, to pick up soiled linen yourself. Leave it for someone else to put away, your mother, your roommate or the maid, and you have missed a chance to glorify God in serving your neighbor. God watches you in secret. Don't fail Him.

Get into the Christmas spirit by helping your neighbor, even though he does not thank you. There's a lot all of us can learn from St. Nick.

PRAYERS: (deceased) two nephews of Dr. McMeel, one killed in action, one missing; William "Cap" Edwards; aunt of Brother Philbert, C.S.C. (Ill) friend of Bob Benes (OC); Brother Ademar, C.S.C.; Leonard Condon, '32; father of Lieut. Ray Geiger, '32; Lieut. Floyd Martin, missing. Ten Special Intentions.

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS BY DAILY ADORATION NOW GOING ON: 11:00 - 4:30 IN CHURCH