

HOW  
ARE  
YOU



PREPARING  
FOR  
CHRISTMAS?

1. DON'T LIVE IN MORTAL SIN.
2. DAILY MASS, COMMUNION & ROSARY.

Santa Claus and St. Nick.

Santa Clause is a Catholic. Another name for him is St. Nicholas - St. Nick, for short. And he is far from a legendary figure. Next Friday the Church will celebrate 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 connected 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 Lord 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 spoiled.

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

PRAYERS: (deceased) uncle of Ray Sullivan, (Z); uncle of John McHale (Morr); Anthony Dean and Harold Denn; wife of Paul Sinka (night watchman at St. Eds).

HOLY COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN DILLON UNTIL NOON; IN CAVANAUGH UNTIL 9:30.  
LATE MASSES DAILY: 7:20 IN DILLON AND CAVANAUGH.