

Unit 3: GOD'S GREATEST GIFTS

Lesson 3.2: THE SAINT OF CHRISTMAS TIME - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Video Lesson: [St. Nicholas of Myra](#) (duration 9:58)

Craft Activity: St. Nicholas Coloring Page

Memory Verse:

“Children, I ask you to make your hearts and thoughts pleasing to God. Consider that although we may think we are good and often trick people into thinking we are good; we cannot trick God. For that reason, we must be dedicated to staying holy in our souls and keep our bodies clean. St. Paul says that you are the temple of God; and if anyone dirties the temple of God, God destroy shall destroy that person.”

- St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body:

We are in a very special season. All the Christians of the world are celebrating Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It happened more than two thousand years ago, and it all started with a young girl named Mary, when nine months earlier, on April 7th (this is when the Armenia Church celebrates the Annunciation of Mary), the archangel Gabriel came to deliver good news to Mary that she was chosen and with the power of the Holy Spirit, she would have a child.

We hear about angels a lot in the Bible, especially in Christmas stories. Almost every Christmas carol mentions angels singing grace.

Q: What do you know about angels?

Angels are God's helpers and messengers to people. Yet angels are not the only helpers God has and needs. There are many saints who follow the examples of the angels and live their lives helping others.

Q: Can you name any saints?

Saint Nicholas was one of these people! He was born a long time ago, in a noble and wealthy family. St. Nicholas was a bishop in a city called Myra (Smyrna in Armenian). He was well known for his generosity and how much he helped other people, as well as for his gentleness, kindness, and love.

St. Nicholas would visit the poor and sick that he knew were in need at night, without them knowing, and would leave money in their houses. Coming from a noble and wealthy family, St. Nicholas generously shared his inheritance with those less fortunate. He spent his life giving and helping others who were in need.

Video Lesson: [St. Nicholas of Myra](#) (duration 4:59)

St. Nicholas helped people not only by sharing his wealth with them but also with prayer. Through prayer, trust, and obedience to God he was able to hear God's message and do His work. One of the stories about Saint Nicholas tells us how he was able to save three falsely accused prisoners from execution. While he was praying for their souls, he felt that they were innocent and rushed to the execution site, right in time, and held the hand of the executioner above the head of the first prisoner. Then he gave a stern look to the governor who had falsely accused these three men in order to hide his own wrong doings. The governor, understanding that he could not hide

anything from this godly bishop and God himself, confessed his crime. After this, the accusations were lifted from the three prisoners and their lives were saved.

St. Nicholas is a beloved saint in many cultures and families. The name Nicholas is also very popular and loved, meaning “victory of the people”. On the feast of St. Nicholas Wonderworker, we also celebrate those who carry his name, wishing them to live up to their name referring to all the good the saint has done in people’s lives and follow the example he lived by. The feast of St. Nicholas that is celebrated on December 6th in Catholic and Eastern Churches. In the Armenian Church, it is usually celebrated on the third Saturday of Advent.

He was a true missionary of God, preaching Bible by example. Just as St. Nicholas spent his life serving the Lord by helping those in need, we too should strive to follow his example as much as possible.

Q: What are some ways we can help those around us? (We can help those around us by praying for those in need, helping others when they need help, being generous and share, etc.)

Christmas Greeting:

When you greet one another, say:

Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ:

Kreesdos dznay yev haydnetsav!

Christ is born and revealed!

The response is:

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee!

Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

Another common greeting is:

Ձեզ եւ մեզ մեծ ատեղիս:

Tsez yev mez medz avedees!

To you and to us is great news!

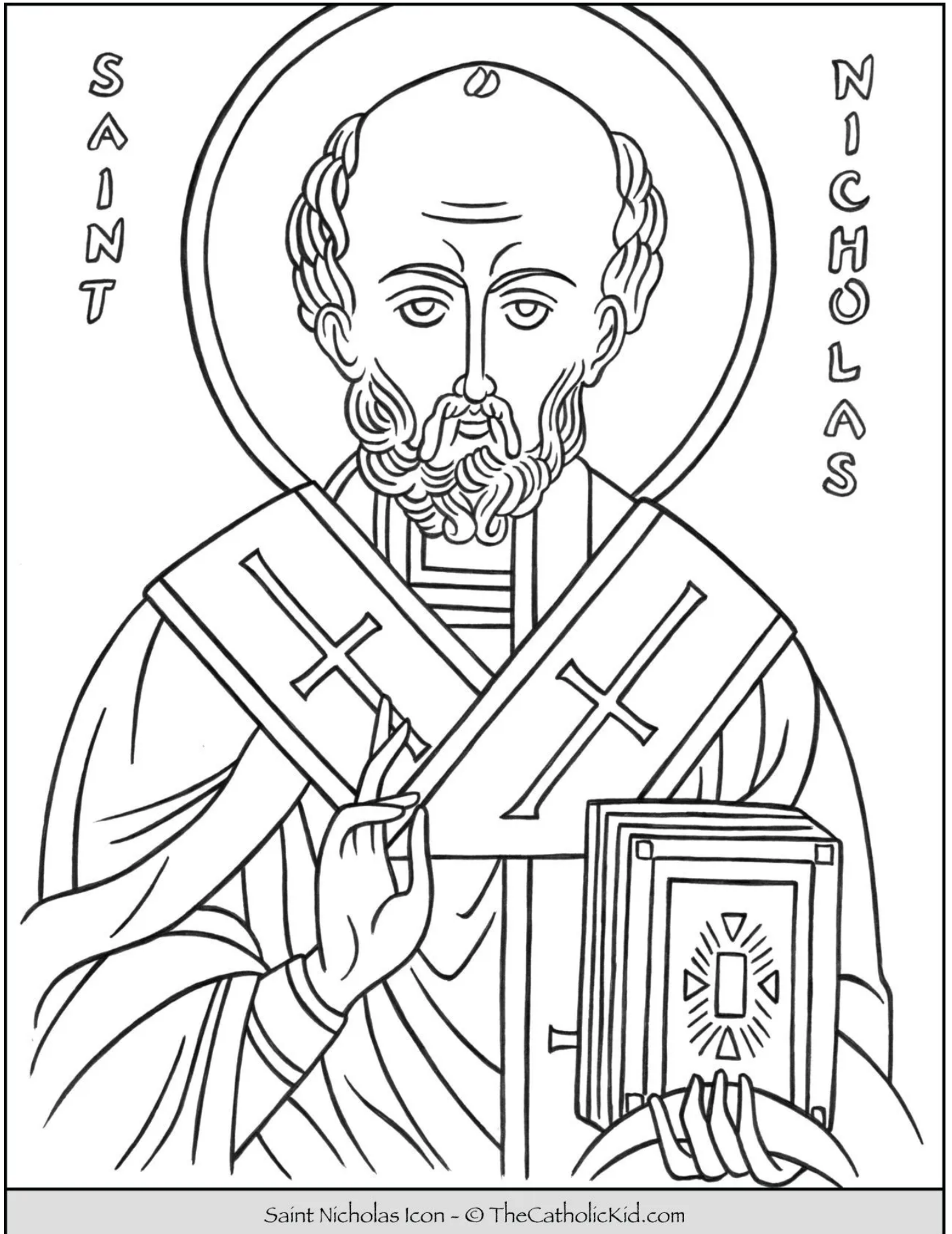
Fun Facts About St. Nicholas:

1. Nicholas was born in Patara, in AD 270, and served as bishop of Myra. He lived here until his death in 345.
2. St. Nicholas is sometimes referred to as the “boy bishop” because he was consecrated Bishop of Myra at the tender age of 30.
3. St. Nicholas spent seven long, hard years, tortured and imprisoned for his faith in Christ under the Diocletian Persecution, until the first Christian emperor, Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in A.D. 313 that gave religious liberty to all Christians.
4. He was one of the 318 bishops participating in the Council of Nicaea, the First Ecumenical Council of the Church, in AD 325.
5. At the Council of Nicaea, according to tradition, St. Nicholas slapped the heretic Arius, for blaspheming the most-Holy Trinity.

“Children, I ask you to make your hearts and thoughts pleasing to God. Consider that although we may think we are good and often trick people into thinking we are good; we cannot trick God. For that reason, we must be dedicated to staying holy in our souls and keep our bodies clean. St. Paul says that you are the temple of God; and if anyone dirties the temple of God, God destroy shall destroy that person.”



**St. Nicholas’s
Message to Children:**



Saint Nicholas Icon - © TheCatholicKid.com

Review

Christmas Greeting:

When you greet one another, say:

Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ:

Kreesdos dznav yev haydnetsav!

Christ is born and revealed!

The response is:

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:

Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee!

Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

Another common greeting is:

Ձեզ եւ մեզ մեծ աւետիս:

Tsez yev mez medz avedees!

To you and to us is great news!

Life Application:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Like the shepherds, who were told the good news of Christ's birth, we too must go out and tell the same good news to others. We do this not only by telling people about the miracle of Christmas, but also by sharing the blessings that we have. God has blessed each of us with gifts and we are called to share those gifts with people who do not have. In doing so, we spread the the good news, help others and glorify God.

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What was St. Nicholas's background? (He was from a noble family and wealthy; he later became the bishop of Myra/Smyrna)
2. What did he do with his family's wealth? (He would share it with the poor and sick)
3. When three men were accused of a false crime, what did St. Nicholas do? (He prayed and realized they were falsely accused; he then held the executioner's hand and looked into the eyes of the governor)
4. What does the name Nicholas mean? (Victory of the people)
5. When do Armenians celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas? (Generally on the third Saturday of Advent)

* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

At Home

No homework at this time.

*Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ:
Kreesdos dznav yev haydnetsav!
Christ is born and revealed!*

*Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:
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Tsez yev mez medz avedees!
To you and to us is great news!*