

St. Nicholas' Day Blessing

This service of blessing was written by Thomas G. Simons and adapted by Deborah Dresser to be used in conjunction with St. Nicholas Day event that might include a Giving Tree (see events), intergenerational supper, craft fair, and/or presentation on the Diocese of Jerusalem.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord was upon him.

All: To bring good news to the poor and to heal the brokenhearted.

Leader: Let us pray.

All powerful God,
you made St. Nicholas a and leader of the church
to inspire your people with his teaching and example.
May we give fitting honor to his memory
and always have the assistance of his prayers.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever—and ever. **Amen.**

WORD SERVICE

1 Peter 5.1–4 — Hebrews 13.7–9a

The following summary of the life of St. Nicholas may be read and discussed.

St. Nicholas was born in the 4th century. He was named bishop of Myra, a poor and run-down. When his wealthy parents died, he gave his wealth to the poor and devoted himself to the conversion of sinners.

Once he heard that a man who had become very poor intended to abandon his three daughters to prostitution because he could not afford a dowry for them to be married. Nicholas, the story goes, on three occasions threw a bag of gold through the window into the room of the sleeping father. His daughters soon were married. Later the father came to Nicholas, fell at his feet and said, "Nicholas, you are my helper. You have delivered my soul and my daughters' souls from hell."

St. Nicholas also travelled to the Holy Land to Bethlehem where our Lord Jesus Christ was born. Today in Beit Jala, the town right next to Bethlehem, there is a church that was built over the cave where Nicholas lived. It is believed that this beloved saint continues to do miracles to protect the children of the Holy Land.



[Saint-](#)

[Nicolas](#)

[Postcard, 1912 Switzerland](#)

[St Nicholas Center Collection](#)

We are called to help support the children of the Holy Land in the same selfless spirit of St. Nicholas. We can do that through our prayers and in our offering. The American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem invite us to make a generous offering that will help these children get the education and medical attention that they need.

INTERCESSIONS

Reader: For the gift of each person here.
We give thanks.

Reader: For the capacity to care for and to share with those in need.
We give thanks.

Reader: For a holiday season of joy, hope, and peace, especially in the Holy Land.
We give thanks.

Reader: For our generous giving in the spirit of St. Nicholas
We give thanks.

Leader: Let us remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: it is more blessed to give than to receive.

OFFERTORY HYMN *as the offering plates are passed*

For St. Nicholas hymns see: The St. Nicholas Society, www.stnicholassociety.com

DOXOLOGY

BLESSING PRAYER

Leader: Gracious and good Lord, we bless you on this feast of St. Nicholas, your servant, who is an example to us of a life of charity and love. May we see in his life an invitation to imitate his good deeds. Make us always mindful of the needs of others and help us rejoice in the abundance of your goodness around us: through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Illustrations and resources courtesy of the [St. Nicholas Center](#), a non-profit site with many resources, including liturgical material, recipes, craft ideas, stories and more, to make it easy for families, churches and schools to celebrate St. Nicholas.