

Worshipping with St. Nicholas

Here are a number of ways to make St. Nicholas come alive in your parish.

There are more ideas on the St. Nicholas Center website: www.stnicholascenter.org and the St. Nicholas Society website: www.stnicholassociety.com

See also Prayers of the People, Hymns, Blessing and Children's Sermon, all available on this website

Make a St. Nicholas costume for your festival or special event!

See St. Nicholas Center [for costume suggestions and patterns](#)

Complete patterns and instructions include:

- Miter, Cloak or Cape, Capelet, Stole and Alb or Gown
- All Pattern Pieces
- Cutting Layouts
- Complete instructions

Patterns require good basic sewing knowledge and familiarity with garment construction. Step-by-step instructions do not include construction diagrams. The original pattern is extra-large. There are suggestions for making smaller sizes; we believe they will work, but we haven't actually made them. So, please be careful, and measure the pattern pieces against your person before cutting the fabric. And do, please let us know how it works so we can make any necessary adjustments.

Do choose good quality fabric with sufficient weight to drape attractively. The better the fabric, the better the costume will be.



A Surprise Visit

This is a simple way to introduce St. Nicholas into your parish traditions.

At the conclusion of the Sunday worship on or near the Feast of St. Nicholas, December 6th, and immediately following the Benediction, a loud knock is heard on the church doors. With a note of surprise the Celebrant welcomes St. Nicholas, in full costume. He comes down the aisle in all the pomp he can muster. (Fanfare music is a nice touch.) There is an exchange between the two in which St. Nicholas tells a little about himself emphasizing his historical nature and that he is the original Santa Claus. He tells the story of the three bags of gold, see The St. Nicholas Center/Who is St. Nicholas; www.stnicholascenter.org. Just before he leaves he reminds the children that his spirit is one of giving not receiving and that he has hidden golden coins for all the children in the church. "You only have to look to find where they are, and now, good by my dears." The coins have been hidden under the pew/chairs cushions prior to the worship service.

Empty Shoes in the Narthex

Finding golden coins is such fun on St. Nicholas day. On the day nearest to December 6th, which is the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem ingathering, invite the children of your congregation to leave their shoes in the narthex or in some other place where they are not seen until after the morning worship. Let the children hear some of the amazing stories about St. Nicholas and especially the story about the three young girls who received the bags of coins from the saintly bishop. Emphasize that he is the real Santa Claus (see the *Children's Sermon* resource); talk about his visit to the Holy land and that we, in this Christmas season, are going to give a gift to the children of the Holy Land. Perhaps you might distribute the St. Nick Mite Boxes and announce an ingathering on Epiphany.

During the service, someone will place a chocolate coin in each child's shoe that will be discovered following the service. Where did it come from?

Golden Chocolate coins – A Resource

If you order a month ahead of your St. Nicholas celebration, you will be able to purchase your coins at a reasonable price. Go to thefind.com and you will find a number of chocolate coin offers such as the following:

Chocolate Large Gold Coins 5lb approximately 275 coins.

Price: \$29.99

Call 866 422-6399

American Gold Coins - Half Dollar - 6 pound bulk

6lb approximately 300 coins.

Price: \$38.81

