



# Let Your Generosity Shine — Like St. Nicholas!

St. Nicholas, December 6

CONNIE CLARK

In pictures he often has a long beard and a red hat. It's said that he brings treats to children in December. Sounds like ... St. Nicholas! But who is he really?

St. Nicholas lived about 300 years after Jesus. His wealthy parents died when Nicholas was a teenager, leaving him all their money. Nicholas remembered what Jesus said: "Go, sell what you have and give to the poor." So he gave all his money to the poor, sick, and suffering. Nicholas loved Jesus and wanted to dedicate his life to him. He became the bishop of Myra, an ancient city in what is now the country of Turkey.

Many stories have been told about Nicholas' miracles, or wonders. It's been said that he calmed the sea, saved children from harm, and even brought the dead back to life.

Here's one famous story about his generosity:

*Late one night, a man sat up worrying. What will I do? he thought. I have no money for my three daughters to get married. (In those days, young women couldn't get married without a large sum of money called a dowry.) As the poor man began to sob, a mysterious bundle flew through an open window. It landed near his oldest daughter's shoes. The man got up and opened it. Surprise! It was full of gold — more than enough for the girl to marry. The same thing happened the next night. Then, on the third night, the man discovered that it was Nicholas who'd been tossing the bundles. He tried to thank Nicholas, but the good bishop told him to thank God instead for life's blessings.*

Have you ever found treats in your shoes on the Feast of St. Nicholas? That's a fun way to celebrate, but here's another way: Share what you have with others, like Nicholas did. It's a great way to celebrate, and an even better way to get ready for Jesus' birth!



**CONNIE CLARK** is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a quarterly magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit [LivingFaithKids.com](http://LivingFaithKids.com).

## Wonder-ful Acts of Mercy

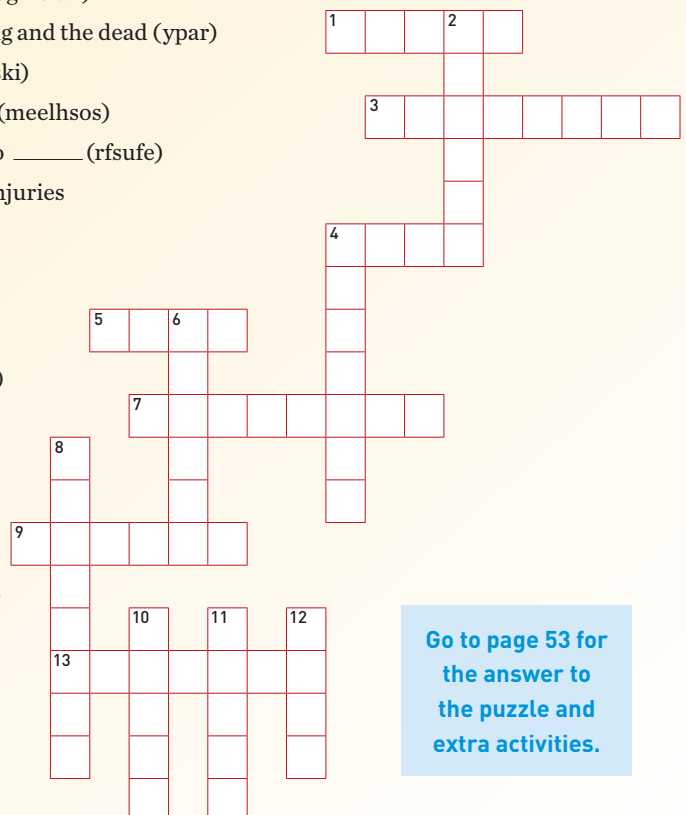
St. Nicholas is sometimes called a wonderworker, but his greatest works were acts of love and kindness. You can do those, too! We call these Works of Mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy are things you can do to help with the physical needs of others. Spiritual Works of Mercy are ways you can help others grow closer to God. Fill in the blanks to finish each work of mercy!

### ACROSS

- Help others do what's \_\_\_\_\_ (ithrg)
- Teach the \_\_\_\_\_ (ognitran)
- \_\_\_\_\_ for the living and the dead (ypar)
- Visit the \_\_\_\_\_ (cski)
- Shelter the \_\_\_\_\_ (meelhsos)
- Comfort those who \_\_\_\_\_ (rfsufe)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (gvrfoie) injuries

### DOWN

- Feed the \_\_\_\_\_ (gnuhyr)
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ (tapeint) with others
- \_\_\_\_\_ (otcellh) the naked
- Give advice to the \_\_\_\_\_ (ouudtblf)
- Give \_\_\_\_\_ (knidr) to the thirsty
- \_\_\_\_\_ (vtsii) those in prison
- Bury the (edad)



Go to page 53 for the answer to the puzzle and extra activities.