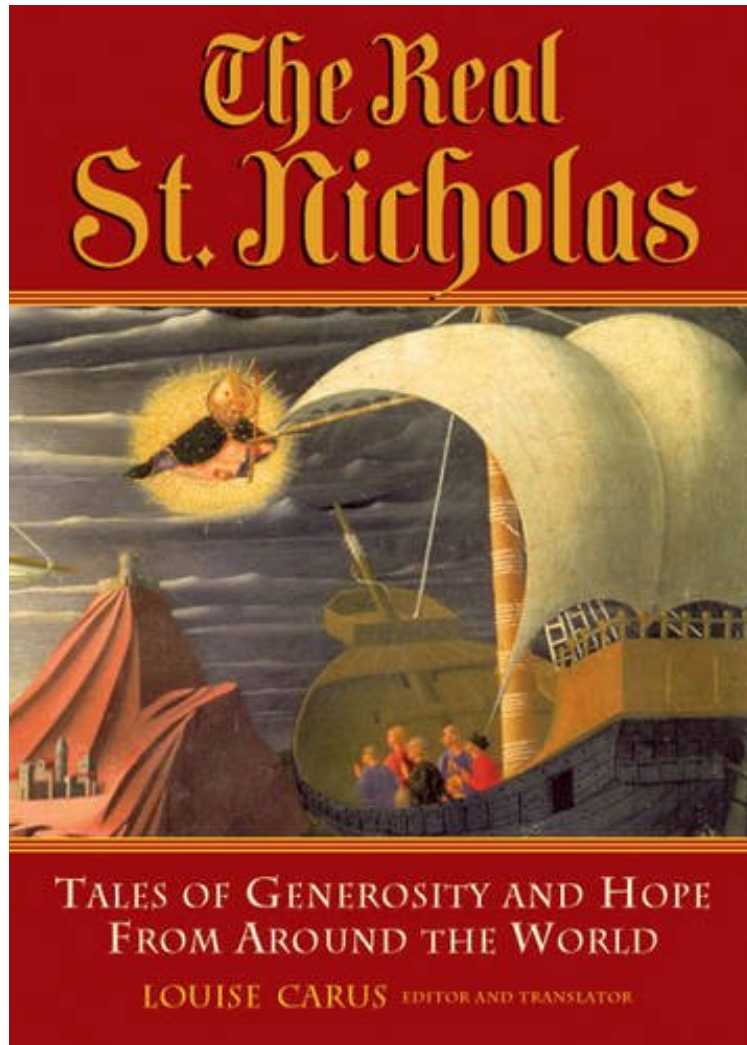


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The Real St. Nicholas: Tales of Generosity and Hope from around the World

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From Quest Books : The Real St. Nicholas: Tales of Generosity and Hope from around the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Real St. Nicholas: Tales of Generosity and Hope from around the World:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. "The Real St. Nicholas": An interesting addition to our family's holiday reading listBy Jay InhofOur extended family~~our grown children, but also young nieces and nephews and their parents, were talking about how we could add more meaning to the holiday season (from Halloween through the New Year)to reinforce 'our family' rather than just focus on Shopping/Gift Lists and the 'Santa Claus Syndrome'. We

came up with the idea that we would add more theme and 'ritual' to traditional minor feast days and holidays that were being overwhelmed by Xmas merchandising and the media blitz. The holidays we wanted to focus on were All Saints and All Souls Days, St. Nicholas Day, the Feast of Santa Lucia, and the weeks of Advent. So we looked into resources for storytelling, bedtime reading, crafts, and cooking/baking and sharing meals as a family group appropriate to each holiday. Thus I ordered "The Real St. Nicholas" after reading about it on the St. Nicholas Center website (where there is a huge amount of good and fun info about St. Nicholas). The book has a range of essays and stories, including the biography of the bishop, different legends from various European cultures and many stories to read aloud to small children. Several of the legends are also excellent if you want to hone your 'storytelling' skills by the fire. The book also includes some classic illustrations and a few recipes for traditional St. Nicholas baking. I think it's a keeper for the family library and will be used for years to come.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Timeless stories to share for the holidays
By Damon D. Hickey
For nearly a decade I've had the honor to "re-present" St. Nicholas on the Sunday closest to his feast day in December at our Episcopal Church. Our St. Nick comes in during the "Passing of the Peace," sits down in front, and tells a story to the children, after which they distribute St. Nicholas ginger cookies to everyone. For the past 6 years, our St. Nicholas has told one of the stories from this wonderful, indispensable collection. They are truly timeless, which means they can teach some surprisingly modern lessons. For example, the Armenian story of St. Nicholas the hermit and the mouse may have been intended originally to teach people to be content with their lot and not to aspire to something above their "station" in life. But today it can teach the importance of being careful what you wish for (because you might get it and then wish you hadn't) and of asking God to give you what God knows will be best for you. It could also teach how God lets you make mistakes and learn from them without being destroyed by them. Thank you, Louise Carus, for gathering, translating, and publishing this amazing resource!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book!
By Elizabeth
My granddaughter was born on St Nicholas Day, and she loves these stories.

There really was a St. Nicholas -- you may be surprised to hear. He was a fourth-century bishop in Asia Minor. Europeans have long observed December 6 as St. Nicholas Day, but the tradition never took hold in America. This charming volume presents little-known legends and tales from Russia, Spain, Greece, Ireland, Germany, Holland, France, Italy, and Armenia----to name a few of the countries represented in this book. While slimmer than jolly old Santa, the historical saint is much larger in character. Celebrated as protector of the wronged and patron saint of children, Nicholas is, in essence, a Western bodhisattva: an enlightened being who serves those in need. This book restores him as an important lost archetype of the Wise Old Man, clustering stories according to such appealing themes as rescuing, nurturing, outwitting evil, and healing. Louise Carus spent two years researching and translating material to bring us the best collection available in English. It will delight parents, educators, community organizers, story lovers, and others eager to decommercialize and resanctify the holidays. Indeed, the generous spirit of the real St. Nicholas can inspire us any day of the year.

From Publishers Weekly
As the patron saint of pharmacists, brides, prisoners and bakers, Saint Nicholas has become a footnote of history. But as the patron saint of children, he lives on in a spirit of generosity known the world over. This book recounts many of those tales of open-handed bounteousness, beginning with a true story: after the destruction of the World Trade Center, the mayor of Bari, Italy, sent half a million dollars to restore the St. Nicholas church in lower Manhattan, which had been wrecked by falling debris. The cities of Bari and Manhattan both have Nicholas as their patron saint. Other stories, drawn from legends across Europe, speak to the saint's avuncular character and largesse, and to the way his example inspires ordinary people to undertake extraordinary acts of charity. Full-color illustrations and photos of contemporary celebrations of the saint's feast day (December 6) complement the engaging text.
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