

DECEMBER 6, ST. NICHOLAS, CONFESSOR – BISHOP

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St. Nicholas, archbishop of Myra in Asia Minor, from the childlike innocence of his own life and his devout care for the young, is looked upon as the patron of children. He died in the middle of the fourth century, and seven hundred years later his holy relics were translated to Bari in Italy. Because of the power he exercised over flames, we pray that through his intercession we may be preserved from the flames of hell. He is remembered for the money which he threw in a window that three young girls might have a dowry for their marriage. Because of this gift his name has become associated with giving and children thank Santa Claus (or St. Nicholas) for their presents at Christmastime.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 45: 30

Státuit ei Dóminus testaméntum pacis, et princípem fecit eum: ut sit illi sacerdotii dignitas in aetérnum. (Ps. 131: 1) Meménto, Dómine, David: et omnis mansuetúdinis ejus. Glória Patri et Filio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculórum. Amen. Státuit ei Dóminus testaméntum pacis, et princípem fecit eum: ut sit illi sacerdotii dignitas in aetérnum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui beátum Nicoláum Pontificem innúmeris decorásti miraculis: tríbue, quæsumus; ut ejus méritis et précibus a gehénnæ incéndiis liberémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculórum.

Commemoration of Feria

Excíta, quæsumus, Dómine, poténtiam tuam, et veni: ut ab imminéntibus peccatórum nostrórum periculis, te mereámur protegénte éripi, te liberánte salvári. Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculórum.

EPISTLE Hebrews 13: 7-17

Fratres: Mementóte præpositórum vestrórum, qui vobis locúti sunt verbum Dei: quorum intuéns éxitum conversatiónis, imitámini fidem. Jesus Christus heri, et hódie: ipse et in saecula. Doctrínis váriis et peregrínis nolíte abdúci. Óptimum est enim grátia stabilíre cor, non escis, quæ non profuerunt ambulántibus in eis. Habémus altáre, de quo édere non habent potestátem, qui tabernáculo deserviunt. Quorum enim animálium infértur sanguis pro peccáto in Sancta per pontíficem, horum córpora cremántur extra castra. Propter quod et Jesus, ut sanctificáret per suum sanguínem pópulum, extra portam passus est. Exeámus ígitur ad eum extra castra, impropérium ejus portántes. Non enim habémus hic manéntem civitátem, sed futúram inquirimus. Per ipsum ergo offerámus hóstiam laudis semper Deo, id est fructum labiórum confiténtium nómini ejus. Beneficéntiæ autem et communiónis nolíte oblivisci: talibus enim hóstiis promerétur Deus. Obédite præpositis vestris, et subjacéte eis. Ipsi enim pervigilant, quasi ratiónem pro animábus vestris redditúri.

GRADUAL Psalms 88: 21-23

Invéni David servum meum, óleo sancto meo unxi eum: manus enim mea auxiliábitur ei, et bráchium meum confortábit eum. Nihil proficiet inimicus in eo, et filius iniquitátis non nocébit ei.

LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 91: 13

Allelúja, allelúja. Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Líbani multiplicábitur. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 14-23

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis parábolam hanc: Homo pégre proficiscens, vocávit servos suos, et trádidit illis bona sua. Et uni dedit quinque talénta, álíi autem duo, álíi vero unum, unicuúque secúndum próprium virtútem, et profectus est statím. Ábit autem qui quinque talénta accéperat, et operátus est in eis, et lucrátus est ália quinque. Simíliter et qui duo accéperat, lucrátus est ália duo. Qui autem unum accéperat, ábiens fodit in terram, et abscondit pecúniam dómini sui. Post multum vero témporis venit dóminus servórum illórum, et pósuit ratiónem cum eis. Et accédens qui quinque talénta accéperat, obtulit ália quinque talénta, dicens: Dómine, quinque talénta tradidisti mihi, ecce ália quinque superlucrátus sum. Ait illi dóminus ejus: Euge, serve bone et fidélis, quia super pauca fuísti fidélis, super multa te constítuam: intra in gáudium dómini tui. Accéssit autem et qui duo talénta accéperat, et ait: Dómine, duo talénta tradidisti mihi, ecce ália quinque superlucrátus sum. Ait illi dóminus ejus: Euge, serve bone et fidélis, quia super pauca fuísti fidélis, super multa te constítuam: intra in gáudium dómini tui.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 25

Véritas mea et misericórdia mea cum ipso: et in nómine sum. Ait illi exaltábitur cornu ejus.

SECRET

Sanctífica, quæsumus, Dómine Deus, hæc múnera, quæ in solemnitate sancti Antístitis tui Nicolái offerimus: ut per ea, vita nostra inter advérsa et próspéra ubique dirigátur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculórum.

Commemoration of Feria

Hæc sacra nos, Dómine, poténti virtúte mundátos, ad suum fáciant puriôres veníre principium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 88: 36-38

Semel jurávi in sancto meo: semen ejus in aetérnum manébit, et sedes ejus sicut sol in conspéctu meo, et sicut luna perfectá in aetérnum, et testis in cælo fidélis.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sacrificia, quæ súmpsimus, Dómine, pro solemnitate sancti Pontíficis tui Nicolái, sempitérna nos protectiône consérvent. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculórum.

Commemoration of Feria

Suscipiámus, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam in médio templi tui: ut reparatiónis nostræ ventúra solénnia cóngruis honóribus præcedámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia saecula saeculórum.

The Lord made to him a covenant of peace, and made him a prince; that the dignity of priesthood should be to him forever. (Ps.131: 1) O Lord, remember David, and all his meekness. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. The Lord made to him a covenant of peace, and made him a prince; that the dignity of priesthood should be to him forever.

O God, Who didst adorn blessed Nicholas, the bishop, with miracles unnumbered, grant, we beseech Thee, that by his merits and prayers we may be delivered from the fires of hell. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren, remember your superiors, who spoke to you the word of God. Consider how they ended their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Be not led away by various and strange doctrines: for it is best that the heart be made steadfast by grace; not by baits, in which those who walked profited not. We have an altar, whereof they have no power to eat who serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the Holies by the High Priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people by His own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore to Him without the camp, bearing His reproach: for we have not here a lasting city, but we seek one that is to come. By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise always to God, that is to say, the fruit of lips confessing to His name. And do not forget to do good and to impart: for by such sacrifices God's favor is obtained. Obey your prelates, and be subject to them; for they keep watch, as having to render an account for your souls.

I have found David, My servant: with My holy oil I have anointed him; for My hand shall help him, and My arm shall strengthen him. The enemy shall have no advantage over him, nor the son of iniquity have power to hurt him.

Alleluia, alleluia. The just man shall flourish like the palm-tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: A man going into a far country called his servants, and delivered to them his goods. And to one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to every one according to his proper ability: and immediately he took his journey. And he that had received the five talents went his way, and traded with the same, and gained other five. And in like manner he that had received the two gained other two. But he that had received the one, going his way, digged into the earth and hid his lord's money. But after a long time the lord of those servants came and reckoned with them. And he that had received the five talents coming, brought other five talents, saying: Lord, thou didst deliver to me five talents, behold I have gained other five over and above. His lord said to him: Well done, good and faithful servant, because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. And he also that had received the two talents came and said: Lord, thou deliveredst two talents to me, behold I have gained other two. His lord said to him: Well done, good and faithful servant, because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

My truth and mercy shall be with him: and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

Sanctify, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, these gifts, which we offer on the solemnity of Thy holy Bishop Nicholas: that through them our lives, whether in adversity or in prosperity, may everywhere be guided aright. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

May these holy mysteries, O Lord, cleanse us by their powerful virtue and make us to come with greater purity to Him Who is their source. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Once have I sworn by My holiness, his seed shall endure forever: and his throne as the sun before Me, and as the moon perfect forever; and a faithful witness in heaven.

May the sacrifices of which we have partaken, O Lord, to honor the feast of Thy holy Bishop Nicholas, preserve us by their eternal protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

May we receive, O Lord, Thy mercy in the midst of Thy temple, that we may prepare with due honor for the approaching feast of our redemption. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.