

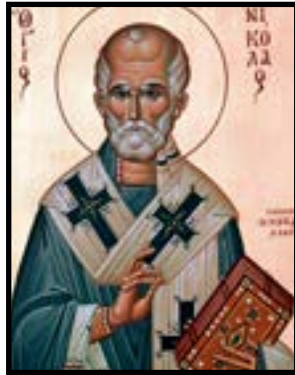
# Cultural Advent Saint Celebrations

## St. Nicholas

DECEMBER 6

### DID YOU KNOW?

"SANTA CLAUS" COMES FROM THE DUTCH FORM OF HIS NAME, "SINTERKLAAS."



St. Nicholas was a fourth century bishop in Lycia, a province in Turkey. He became well known for his generosity. He is also considered the patron saint of brides and children and the precursor to Santa Claus.

To celebrate St. Nicholas and his giving nature, children may get to celebrate this feast day by receiving special gifts in their shoes. Children are encouraged to leave their shoes outside their bedrooms the night of Dec. 5 and awaken to a fun surprise in the morning.

## Saint Lucy

DECEMBER 13

### DID YOU KNOW?

THE NAME LUCY MEANS LIGHT.



St. Lucy was martyred very young. She is the patron saint of the blind.

In the celebration of St. Lucy, children in Italy leave bowls of milk and carrots to attract the hungry donkey St. Lucy travels on to make sure she stops by their house and leaves presents. In Sweden, the tradition is that the oldest girl in the family wears a white dress and a red sash as a sign of martyrdom. The girl also wears a wreath crown with lighted white candles. All girls dressed as Lucy walk in procession singing traditional songs and share cookies with those present.



## Our Lady of Guadalupe

DECEMBER 12

### DID YOU KNOW?

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR RELIGIOUS FEASTS AMONG HISPANICS IN THE U.S.

Many parishes throughout the country celebrate this feast day by doing reenactments of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego, praying a morning rosary dedicated to her, and bringing her the traditional "Mañanitas" with mariachi bands singing songs to praise her. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also considered the patroness of the unborn.