

THE MANNA OF ST. NICHOLAS

Saint Nichoclas, the 4th century Archbishop of Myra, is widely revered by Christians throughout the world. He is acclaimed for being a teacher of moderations, a model of faith and an example of virtue. His acts of kindness and generosity are remembered to this day.

Even in death, St. Nicholas continues to have a great impact on the lives of faithful Christians. From the time of his burial in the basilica of his church in Myra, the body of St Nicholas has exuded a mysterious, miraculous liquid referred to as “manna.” Those who are annointed with it often find themselves unexplainably healed of their illnesses. Countless others have their prayers answered through this special intercession of this beloved saint.

In 1087, the body of St. Nicholas was stolen from its resting place by sailors and taken to the seaport town of Bari, Italy, where a magnificent cathedral was built to house the relics of the famed Archbishop. Down through the centuries, the mysterious manna has continued to flow. In 1954, the crypt of St Nicholas needed extensive repair, so it was necessary to exhume the saint’s body from its tomb. When it was time for the body to be re-interred, the linen sheet upon which it had rested was found to be soaking wet – saturated from the manna! For many years now, it has been customary for the cathedral clergy to collect thr manna in an urn for later distribution to the general public.

So it is that Bari now is closely associated with the name of St Nicholas. But no town owns him. He belongs to all, for he is but another glorious member in the Body of Christ.