



St. Nicholas: Donated in honor of John and Alice Fox and Cyril and Jane Nickoloff by Ed, Nancy, Nicole, Natalie, and Noelle Fox, the St. Nicholas Window depicts the beloved saint whose name eventually evolved into Santa Claus.

What do we know about St. Nicholas? Born in Asia Minor, Nicholas was the bishop of Myra and known for his saintliness, his enthusiasm, and his miracles. He was sent to prison when Emperor Diocletian was persecuting Christians. Many stories have circulated about St. Nicholas. One involves three poor young women whose father could not afford to pay a dowry for them. Nicholas, it is said, threw bags of gold into their home, and so the three women could then be married. Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, of prisoners, and of children. In a number of European countries Saint Nicholas brings Christmas presents.

In his right hand our Nicholas holds a crozier, the stylized shepherd's staff carried by bishops symbolizing their leadership over the "flock." In his left hand, the saint holds a mound of what is probably gold, reminding us of his gifts to the poor. St. Nicholas wears vestments and a miter, the tall hat worn by bishops. Nicholas's feast day falls on December 6.