



The Cross and Crown

December 2018

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SANTA or SAINT NICHOLAS --- What's the Difference?

Saint Nicholas was born in Patara (in modern-day Turkey), but at a young age went to live with his uncle – a priest – when, as a teen, his parents died. Raised in the faith, Nicholas was elected bishop of the city of Myra around A.D. 317. A version of the event says that one of the church authorities had a dream in which God told him that the man who would come to the door named Nicholas should be the next bishop. When Nicholas then came to the door and told the authorities his name, he was immediately appointed bishop.

Another version tells us that it was his acts of generosity already as a young man that earned him respect in the church. Nicholas had inherited a great deal of money from his wealthy parents. However, he did not use this wealth for himself; instead, he gave much of his money to others. The most famous story of his generosity is his helping a father who was unable to give a dowry for his three daughters. (Dowries were required for a daughter to get married; without one, girls might be sold into slavery or forced into prostitution.) Nicholas is said to have taken bags of money and secretly deposited them at the girls' house. When they awoke, they found the money, enough for food and to be married.

Throughout his entire life, Nicholas continued to show great care to others, especially children. He was a pious example and role model who lived out his faith, showing compassion for others. The stories of his kindnesses soon spread throughout the region and beyond.

The stories of Saint Nicholas were probably the inspiration for the poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Moore, better known today as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." While the poem does use Saint Nicholas's name, it differs from history. Instead, the poem morphed him into a caricature of himself, with children waiting for toys and hearing reindeer. Unfortunately this



Santa Claus changed our culture's understanding of Christmas, making it more about the gifts than the birth of the greatest Gift – the Savior Jesus.

Another tradition about Bishop St. Nicholas has him taking part in the first council of Nicea in A.D. 325. This council was convened to address the heresy that Jesus was not equal to God but instead created by God as a subordinate. Because of this heresy, the Nicene Creed was written as a statement of what we believe as Christians, and is still used often in the Divine Service.

Saint Nicholas was a real person and a man of deep faith, who, in Christian love, gave money and gifts to help people. He lived out his Christian faith by showing kindness and compassion to others. At Christmas, we Christians remember the real Saint Nicholas, his mercy, and the greatest gift ever given us -- our Savior Jesus Christ.

-Pastor Smith

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Hear ye, hear ye!

The Greenleaf Singers wish to invite one and all to our Christmas Madrigal Concert on Friday, December 7th at 7:30pm!

The Greenleaf Singers are an a cappella (unaccompanied) vocal group who perform music of the Renaissance and beyond! We were started over 30 years ago to perform for madrigal dinners and have been going strong ever since! We now number 16—with 4 people on each part. I am starting my 12th season with Greenleaf this year. We not only sing for concerts and madrigal dinners, we also perform at the St. Louis Renaissance Faire in Wentzville during the fall, and perform at various venues around the St. Louis region.



So what can you expect when you come to a Greenleaf concert? Well, first of all, great outfits! We dress in Renaissance clothing as "nobility," and our music director even plays the French king, Francois I at the Renaissance Faire.

Second, recorders! Yes, those instruments that your 3rd and 4th graders play in school aren't just for kids! We have small interludes during the concert where several of us play pieces on various sizes of recorders, some of which may be familiar tunes to many of you.

And third, the singing! We sing all of our songs without any instrumental accompaniment--madrigals, old music, new music, familiar music, Christmas music, beautiful songs, funny songs--basically a wonderful experience to start your Christmas season. Join us on December 7th (or check us out on Facebook or at GreenleafSingers.org) and see what all the fa-la-la-ing is about!

-Kathryn Crumrine

Tickets are available at the door (\$10 adult/\$5 children 12 and under), or in advance at GreenleafSingers.org or on Facebook: Greenleaf Singers (\$8 adult/\$4 child)



Christmas in Crestwood is Celebrating it's fifth year! Come join the fun!



5th Annual Holiday Tree Decorating Contest *December 1 - 25*

Visit participating businesses and rate their holiday trees. Each ballot is an entry into a weekly drawing for a gift basket! Grand Prize is a Basket valued at over \$5,000!



Crestwood Holiday Lights House Decorating Contest *December 1 - 31*

Crestwood residents will compete to see who has the best decorated house in our city. There will be one winner per Ward and a final Grand Prize winner.



Santa is Coming to Crestwood! *December 1 11:30a - 1:30p*

The first 200 kids receive a goody bag! Join us for photos with Santa, firehouse tours, furry friends to pet and adopt, cookies, and holiday music. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Pre-paid photo packages are required and can be ordered online. Photo packages benefit Toys for School Kids. (Santa will be available for photos elsewhere in Crestwood throughout the holiday season.) New toys and nonperishable food items will be collected for Toys for School Kids and Prince of Peace Food Pantry.



Classic Santa Car Cruise *December 1, 2:00p - 3:00p*

Santa will cruise through Crestwood in a vintage Willys Jeepster convertible accompanied by other classic automobiles. Route will be available on the Christmas in Crestwood Facebook page and the city's website.



The 3rd Annual Car Show *December 1 3 - 6:00p*

Presented and hosted by Fairway Automotive, Watson Auto Care Plaza. Join Santa for fun, food, games, raffles and other surprises. Coats, hats, and mittens will be collected for Toys for School Kids!



Christmas Madrigal Concert with The Greenleaf Singers *December 7, 7:30p*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.
Call 314-843-8448 for more info.



Fireworks Display *December 1, 7:00 p*

A fantastic fireworks show provided by Brilliant Skies Fireworks held at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church. Overflow parking will be available at City Hall.



Holiday Guide *November 1 - Mid-January*

Check out the Holiday Guide on the City of Crestwood website, cityofcrestwood.org/holidayguide for special holiday events, activities, promotions, sales, open houses, etc. **SHOP CRESTWOOD. DISCOVER NEW BUSINESSES AND UNIQUE GIFTS!**



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Environmental Heating and Cooling
EZ Storage
Fairway Automotive
Spectrum Eyeglass Repair
Spicy Graphics
Walgreens Crestwood
Wholesale Siding Depot
The UPS Store

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION:

City of Crestwood Website:
cityofcrestwood.org
ChristmasInCrestwood@gmail.com
Facebook: Christmas in Crestwood
FairwayAutomotive.com
Facebook: Fairway Automotive

CHRISTMAS IN CRESTWOOD

"We light up Crestwood with color and cheer during the holidays while connecting people with our wonderful businesses!"

UPCOMING EVENTS for DECEMBER

Advent Soup Supper ... Wednesday, December 5th, 12th, 19th at 5:30 - 6:30p.m.

Advent Worship Service..... Wednesday, December 5th, 12th, 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Greenleaf Singers Concert Saturday, December 7th, 7:30 p.m.

No Worship Service on Saturday, December 22nd

Worship Service ... Sunday, December 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve (Candlelight) Service ... Monday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service ... Tuesday, December 25th at 9:30 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service ... Monday, December 31st at 7:00 p.m.

No Worship Service on New Year's Day