Traditions in Germany

ST. NICHOLAS

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA CLAUS

In Roman Catholic areas of southern Germany, such as Bavaria, **Sent Nicolas** still comes as a with flowing beard and a bishop's and staff.





Many children put a boot called Nikolaus-Stiefel (Nikolaus boot) outside the front door on the night of December 5 to December 6.

St. Nicholas fills the boot with gifts and sweets, and at the same time checks up on the children to see if they were good, polite and helpful the last year.





Sometimes a disguised Nikolaus also visits the children at school or in their homes and asks them if they have been good (sometimes ostensibly checking his golden book for their record), handing out presents on a per-behaviour basis. But for many children, Nikolaus also elicited fear, as he was often accompanied by Knecht Ruprecht (Servant Ruprecht), who would threaten to beat, or sometimes actually beat the children for misbehaviour.