

# SAINT NICHOLAS IS COMING TO TOWN

Saint Nicholas' Day falls on December 6. On the eve of St. Nicholas' Day, children leave a boot near the window or the front door. The bigger the boots, the better the presents. More can fit. Before placing it near the window, you must clean the boot thoroughly. Then you go to sleep, hoping to wake up to the boot filled with gifts from Saint Nicholas. In the boot, you may find candies, chocolate, school supplies or small presents. However, this is only for kids who behave well throughout the year. In case you misbehave, Krampus will leave you a stick. The stick is usually golden or silver and not that dangerous.

No one ever saw Saint Nicholas or Krampus, because they come in quietly. Sometimes you wake up to see your parents near the window or front door just escorting Saint Nicholas. They are always lucky enough to see Saint Nicholas.

In other countries, like the Netherlands or Belgium, children in their shoes leave a carrot or hay for Saint Nicholas' horse. The carrot or hay should help the horse during its journey to

deliver presents. What a lovely idea! In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Saint Nicholas travels with an angel and a devil. They help him decide if a child's behavior was good or bad. In Bari, Italy, there is a local tradition in which unmarried women would visit the Basilica and circle a specific "miraculous" column in the crypt three times to help them find a husband. I am not sure how that works. In USA and UK, Saint Nicholas' Day is celebrated in some communities, similarly to our tradition, by leaving a shoe or stocking out on the evening of December 5th to find it filled with small gifts the next morning.

By T.S.6.R

