



*The
St. Nicholas
Pickle*

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Feast + Fast + Feria

This collection contains excerpts from
The Feast Fast Feria Companion, now in progress.

It is an offering of Feast + Fast + Feria,
a Barefoot Abbey ministry whose purpose is to aid
families as they grow in holiness and journey to
heaven by living out their Catholic faith each day through
the Liturgical Year.

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THE ST. NICHOLAS PICKLE

Over the years our family started to see glass pickle ornaments in local stores more and more. Our son's were always amused when we would come across them, so one year I got one on clearance and the St. Nicholas Pickle was born.

For several of the other liturgical living traditions in our home, like our Advent gingerbread houses for St. Barbara's Day or Our Lady of Loreto, I took things that we wanted to include in our family and then worked them into our busy schedule through a Catholic connection that would benefit my children spiritually. The St. Nicholas Pickle is our family's Catholic adaptation of the Christmas pickle tradition.

In addition to putting our shoes out for the Eve of St. Nicholas Day on the 5th of December, our brood also hunts for the St. Nicholas Pickle on his feast. Similarly to the finding of chocolate coins in their shoes in memory of the dowry coins St. Nicholas often provided, as part of our grizzly, Flannery O'Connor style liturgical living that our boys love, the St. Nicholas Pickle is a tangible reminder of his miracle of raising the three pickled boys from the dead after their gruesome murder. This event contributed to St. Nicholas becoming the patron saint of children and was often illustrated in medieval books of the hours making it a simple option for the week's picture study as well.

This miracle of St. Nicholas is also why we make a charcuterie board of preserved and pickled foods for supper on his feast with our traditional Ginger Bend Speculaas cookies and "Bishopswill" (dutch mulled wine or warmed grape juice) typically called Bishopswyn by those not in our family. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, in the midst of this rare pre-Christmas merriment, we pause between impromptu reenactments of the heretic, and fellow bishop, Arius getting an episcopal knuckle sandwich, for denying the divinity of Christ, to recite the Nicene Creed.

Print, cut out, and hide the pickle on the first page and use the Nicene Creed print below as part of your St. Nicholas Day Celebration this year. In our home the one who finds the pickle in our Advent greenery opens a small gift for the family or receives the first warm Speculaas cookie.

"Let us therefore strive to preserve the holiness of our souls and to guard the purity of our bodies with all fervor." - St.. Nicholas of Myra

Ad majorem Dei glóriam,



The Nicene Creed

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD,
THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND
EARTH, AND OF ALL THINGS
VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE;

AND IN ONE LORD JESUS
CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN
SON OF GOD, BEGOTTEN OF
HIS FATHER BEFORE ALL
WORLDS, GOD OF GOD,
LIGHT OF LIGHT,
VERY GOD OF VERY GOD,
BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE,
BEING OF ONE SUBSTANCE
WITH THE FATHER;
BY WHOM ALL THINGS WERE
MADE; WHO FOR US MEN
AND FOR OUR SALVATION
CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,
AND WAS INCARNATE BY
THE HOLY GHOST OF THE
VIRGIN MARY,
AND WAS MADE MAN;

AND WAS CRUCIFIED ALSO FOR US UNDER PONTIUS PILATE;
HE SUFFERED AND WAS BURIED; AND THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN
ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, AND ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER; AND HE SHALL COME
AGAIN, WITH GLORY, TO JUDGE BOTH THE QUICK AND THE DEAD;
WHOSE KINGDOM SHALL HAVE NO END.

AND I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE,
WHO PROCEEDETH FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON;
WHO WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON TOGETHER IS WORSHIPPED AND
GLORIFIED; WHO SPAKE BY THE PROPHETS. AND I BELIEVE ONE HOLY
CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH; I ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM FOR
THE REMISSION OF SINS; AND I LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,
AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME. AMEN.

