The Story of Saint Nicholas

This is the story of St. Nicholas, a real man who lived in Asia Minor about 1700 years ago. St. Nicholas was a kind man, and also a wealthy one. He always gave money or food to people who were in need.

One story tells about the time he traveled through a bitter snowstorm to get food to a village. The people in the village had run out of food, and a terrible blizzard had been blowing over their village for days. You can imagine how desperate they were. Mothers and fathers worked hard, trying to keep their families warm inside their small huts. Fathers were busy chopping wood to try to keep the fire going. Mothers searched their cupboards for even a tiny bit of bread to give their poor children. Everyone was losing hope that they would survive this terrible winter. So imagine their great joy when one morning, just as the blizzard seemed to be ending and the sun was glinting off the great snowdrifts, the villagers discovered a huge basket of wheat in the middle of their town. Someone had managed to get through the terrible storm to bring them this wheat! The villagers divided up the wheat carefully, making sure each family got their share. The mothers used a grindstone to grind the wheat into flour, and the fathers built big, roaring fires so the flour could be baked into bread. And the whole village survived that terrible winter. Can you imagine who brought that basket of wheat to the starving villagers? It was St. Nicholas, of course!

And today, there are still families who remember St. Nicholas by putting a basketful of surprises on their neighbors’ doorsteps, ringing the doorbell, and running away!

Please hang the paper snowflake on your front door, or on your mailbox, if it is hard to see your door from the street. Make a copy of this story and a new paper snowflake, and put them in a basket of surprises for someone on your street who does not have a snowflake on their door. Don’t be nervous about giving a basket to a family you don’t know very well. They’ll be just as surprised as you were! By Christmas, we should have a whole street full of houses with snowflakes on the doors!