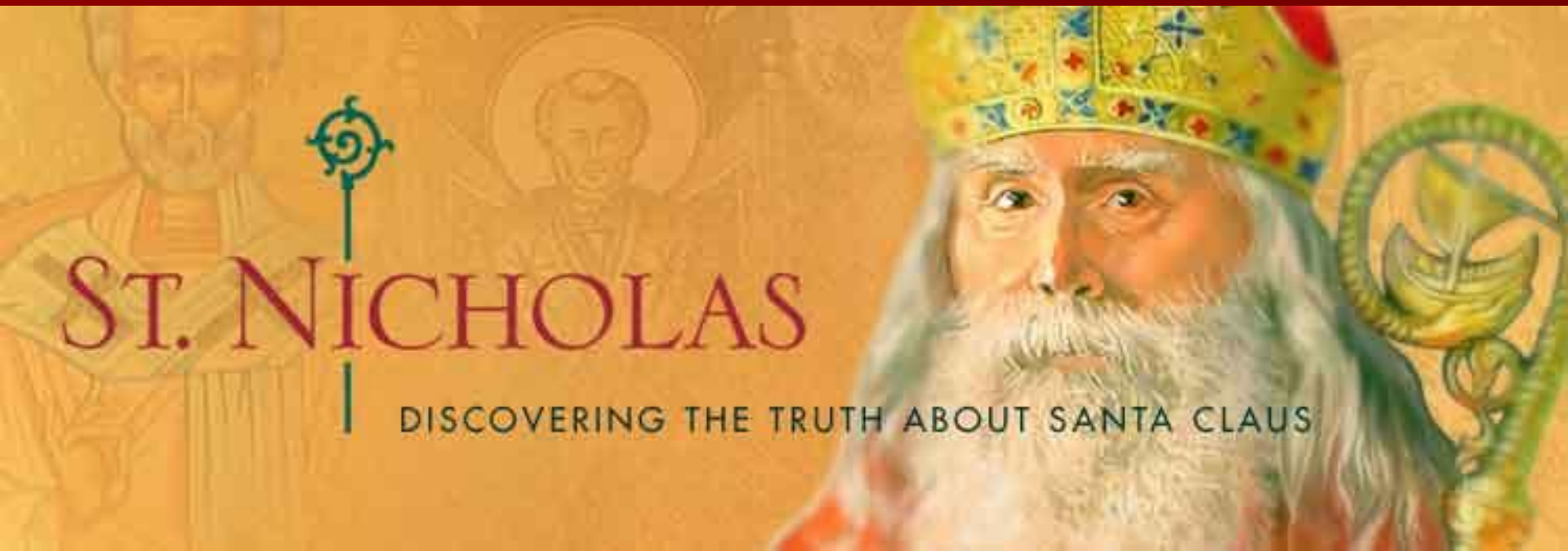


# Traditions in Germany



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