

KRAMPUS

In southern Germany on December 6th, the bishop St. Nicholas pays a visit accompanied by released traditional Devils, the "Krampus". St. Nicholas carries with him a large book containing all of the names of the people and children who have been good the entire year. Those in the book he rewards with candy and treats.

If your name is not in the book, the Krampus are given leave to beat you with their brooms, bind you in chains, stuff you into a wicker knapsack and carry you off to Hell. Once in Hell, you must pay penitence before you may be released.

After their visit, a figurine of the Krampus is placed on a shelf in the home, to remind one and all to be good the year round.

The Krampus figurine is typically constructed using a walnut for the head, with eyes, nose and 'mean' looking mouth painted on. The body is made up of dried prunes staked on a 'stick-figure' wire frame. Small nuts are used for the feet, and the tail is tipped with a raisin. The Krampus holds a little round broom in one hand, and a small chain in the other.