

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Saint Valentine's Day

Monday, February 14, is the Feast of St. Valentine. On this day, people send greetings and gifts to those they love and care about. But how did the custom of sending "Valentine" messages come about?



St. Valentine was a Catholic bishop who lived in Rome during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. This was a time when the Roman Empire was at war. The Emperor, Claudius II, wanted his army to be tough and ready to fight. And he felt that married men would rather stay home with their families than go into battle. So, he made a law forbidding his soldiers to marry.

Valentine disagreed with the emperor. He thought that anyone should be able to get married who wanted to. He also thought that married men would make very good soldiers because they would fight to defend their wives and children. Therefore, he broke the law and continued to perform marriages for soldiers in secret.

When Claudius found out what was going on, he had Valentine arrested and ordered that Valentine be put to death. While in jail, Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter. The night before his execution, Valentine wrote her a farewell note and signed it "From Your Valentine". Love messages have been signed this way ever since.

According to tradition, Valentine was beheaded on February 14, 270. After his death, Valentine was made a saint and February 14 became his feast day. Today, Valentine's Day is a day for letting friends and family know how much they mean to us.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



1. Who was St. Valentine?
2. Why did Emperor Claudius forbid Roman soldiers to marry?
3. Why was Valentine arrested and put to death?
4. Why did Valentine defy the emperor and break the law?
5. What happened to Valentine while he was in jail?
6. What do we mean when we say that someone is our Valentine?
7. Why is February 14 called Valentine's Day?
8. What do you do special for Valentine's Day?