

VALENTINE'S DAY ❤️

Valentine's Day is celebrated in honor of a Saint Called Valentine who is the patron saint of Love.

It all begins in the third century. When the roman empire was ruled by Claudius the second Gothicus. Everyone nicknamed him Claudius the Cruel because he was an evil man who ruled his people harshly and constantly got into wars with other nations. Claudius the Cruel realized that many men were not joining his army. This made king Claudius mad. He summoned the head general of the army to go seek out more young men to join the army, but no one came because they wanted a life of peace to live with their families. The news that no one wanted to join the army made Claudius very, very angry so much so that he banned anyone from being married. This happened for many years because no one had the courage to stand up to king Claudius. One priest named Valentine saw the painful sorrow in the hearts of couples wanting to be married but was grieved that no one was willing to do so. Valentine decided to go against the king's orders and marry couples who were in love. St Valentine knew that it was a very dangerous thing to go against the king's orders but he knew that it was God's will. Secret services were arranged in candle lit rooms where only the bride, groom and St Valentine would be there to perform the wedding. St Valentine carried this on for a long time until word from a spy got back to king Claudius that the law was being broken so he ordered his soldiers to arrest St Valentine and put him in jail. When the news spread that Saint Valentine was put in jail, couples from near and far gathered in front of the window of his cell throwing flowers into his cell and praying for him. One of the soldiers found favor with Valentine and asked if Valentine could teach his daughter Julia, who was born blind, the word of God, which St Valentine agreed too. The days passed as Julia and Valentine talked and talked. One day Julia asked Valentine if God would answer her prayers to give her sight

and Valentine prayed for her request. In that moment Julia received her sight! As the days went on, Julia and Valentine fell in love with each other but they could not be together. The evil king Claudius had already commanded Valentine to be put to death. The day before Valentine's death he wrote a love letter to Julia. that is said to be the best love letter ever written. in which it was signed "from Your Valentine". The next day St Valentine died and entered into Heaven on February 14th of 270 AD. From that day on, people from near and far who had heard of him celebrated what is known now as *Valentine's Day*!

Quiz time ! 😊

- What was king Claudius nicknamed?
- Was it bad to marry in Rome at that time?
- Who did Valentine fall in love with?
- What was her name?
- Why is February 14th called Valentine's day?
- Why did no men want to join the war?

ACTIVITY SECTION

- **Will you be my Valentine?**

Have your child/the children color and decorate a card for Jesus, asking Him to be their Valentine. (make sure they sign their names)

- **Make a List!**

Write your names down on pieces of paper and then fold them into a square, shuffle them all together, having each person pick one. (no one can get themselves!) Write a list of five things that you love about each other and decorate the list. Then choose to do something nice for the

other person. If it is possible for you to give a small treat with the card, that would be great as well.

- **An Act of love for your neighbor.**

For that day, make a list of things you can do for anyone in need and take it one step at a time to show someone Jesus cares for them.

- **Write a journal note to St Valentine.**

If it be in your diary, journal or a blank sheet of paper. Write to saint Valentine the special graces you need to show love and any other things you need him to bless you with.

