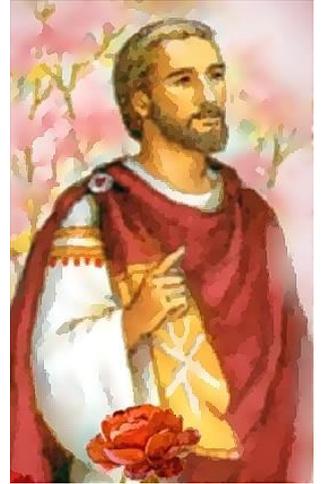




## St. Valentine's Story

Let me introduce myself. My name is Valentine. I lived in Rome during the third century. That was long, long ago! At that time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. I didn't like Emperor Claudius, and I wasn't the only one! A lot of people shared my feelings.

Claudius wanted to have a big army. He expected men to volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to fight in wars. They did not want to leave their wives and families. As you might have guessed, not many men signed up. This made Claudius furious. So what happened? He had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So Claudius decided not to allow any more marriages. Young people thought his new law was cruel. I thought it was stupid and not fair! I certainly wasn't going to support that law!



Did I mention that I was a priest? One of my favourite activities was to marry couples. Even after Emperor Claudius passed his law, I kept on performing marriage ceremonies -- secretly, of course. It was really quite exciting. Imagine a small candlelit room with only the bride and groom and myself. We would whisper the words of the ceremony, listening all the while for the steps of soldiers.

One night, we did hear footsteps. It was scary! Thank goodness the couple I was marrying escaped in time. I was caught. (Not quite as light on my feet as I used to be, I guess.) I was thrown in jail and told that my punishment was death.

I tried to stay cheerful. And do you know what? Wonderful things happened. Many young people came to the jail to visit me. They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted me to know that they, too, believed in love.

One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit me in the cell. Sometimes we would sit and talk for hours. She helped me to keep my spirits up. She agreed that I did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and going ahead with the secret marriages. On the day I was to die, I left my friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

### A Valentine Prayer

I said a Valentine prayer for you  
and asked the Lord above  
to fill your heart and bless your soul  
With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love  
The kind that's meant to stay  
Just like the generous love  
You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family  
And from every cherished friend  
Then I asked the Lord to give you  
His love that knows no end.

**VALENTINES** is....

*a time for love  
a time for celebrate life  
a time to give & forgive  
and a time to say a prayer for  
you who touched my life*

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day I died, February 14, 269 A.D. Now, every year on this day, people remember. But most importantly, they think about love and friendship. And when they think of Emperor Claudius, they remember how he tried to stand in the way of love, and they laugh -- because they know that **love can't be beaten!**

*St Valentine February 14<sup>th</sup>*



**COLOUR ME  
IN!!**



# St. Valentine's Day



Find the words about St. Valentine's Day.



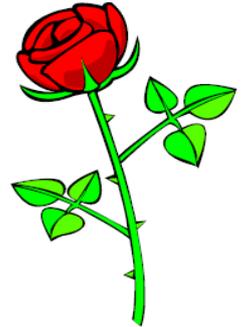
Cupid



Valentine



Heart



Rose



Present

Q	W	E	R	T	Y	E	N	T	E	B	X	A	D	P
C	D	A	T	E	J	A	K	I	S	S	X	R	A	G
R	D	K	A	T	Z	M	U	T	T	E	R	R	R	I
A	S	V	G	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	Z	O	W	R
W	F	A	E	B	H	N	B	T	B	U	U	W	I	L
L	K	L	C	O	U	E	C	I	H	E	A	R	T	F
I	N	E	H	Y	N	I	H	E	T	A	Z	O	A	R
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O	B	O	R	D	J	H	T	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
S	C	U	P	I	D	B	E	K	U	S	S	E	G	B
E	L	I	E	B	E	O	S	H	E	R	Z	T	P	D



Love



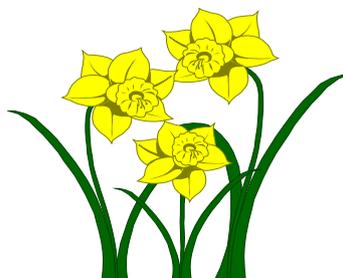
Arrow



Chocolate



Date. Boyfriend



Flowers



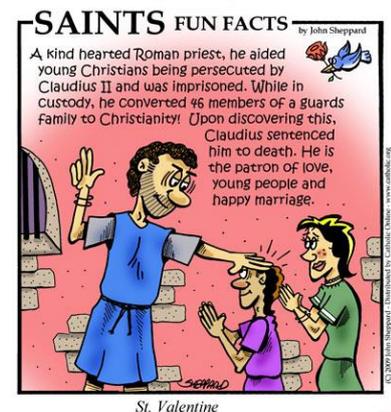
Kiss



# Valentine's Day Fun Facts

Here is the most enjoyable and unbelievable collection of Valentine's Day Fun Facts. Share these fun facts with your friends to amaze them this Valentine Day.

- About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged in US each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.
- Women purchase 85% of all valentines.
- In order of popularity, Valentine's Day cards are given to teachers, children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.
- Parents receive 1 out of every 5 valentines.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- In olden times, some people believed that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.
- Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the biggest holidays for giving flowers.
- Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- 73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.
- Men buy most of the millions of boxes of sweets and bouquets of flowers given on Valentine's Day.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.
- The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.
- Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.
- Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.
- The oldest surviving love poem till date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing, around 3500 B.C
- Amongst the earliest Valentine's Day gifts were sweets. The most common were chocolates in heart shaped boxes.
- If an individual thinks of five or six names considered to be suitable marriage partners and twists the stem of an apple while the names are being recited, then it is believed the eventual spouse will be the one whose name was recited at the moment the stem broke.
- In Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future husband.
- In some countries like US and Canada valentine day is not just meant for lovers but it is a day of friendship too when school kids exchange cards among friends and decorate their classrooms and have a nice time. They prepare valentine gifts. Sometimes they draw cards for their teachers also!



**St Valentine's Shrine is in Dublin** - Worldwide, St Valentine is known as the patron saint of love and lovers, but not a lot of people know that the remains of St. Valentine have been lying around in a Dublin church since 1836. It is open daily to the public so you can drop in and say hello. To honour his passing a special side altar and shrine were built to house St Valentine's remains and to allow people and lovers to come and pay their respects and to pray for him. A new statue of the saint which was carved for the altar shows the Saint wearing the red cloth of the martyr and holding his symbolic crocus aloft in blessing all lovers. The black casket which contains St Valentine's remains is kept in a niche under the altar which is secured by a gate. On top of the casket is the coat of arms of Pope Gregory XVI inscribed with the words "This Shrine contains the sacred body of Saint Valentinus (Valentine) the Martyr, together with a small vessel said to be tinged with the saint's blood."

**It Is Good to Share and Celebrate LOVE!!**