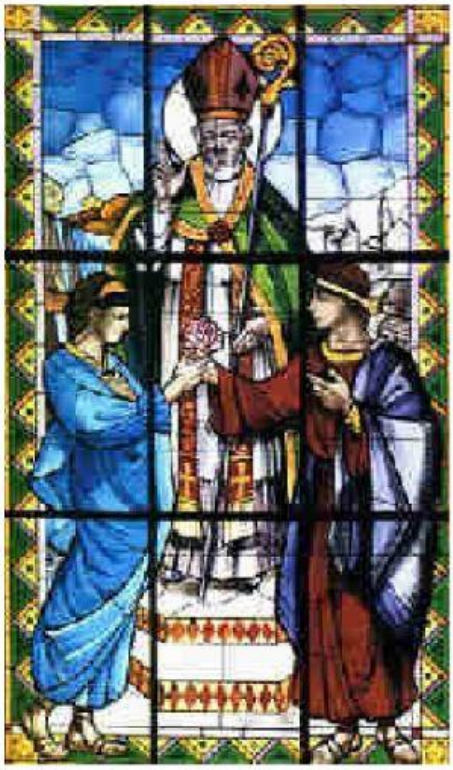
The History of Valentine's Day...

Valentine's Day is associated with sending cards and/or flowers or chocolates to special friends and loved ones. Whatever is sent, the message remains the same: love and friendship. But how did it all begin? We have to go back centuries to find the history and legends of Valentine's Day.



One legend tells of a wonderful priest named Valentine who lived during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II, about 200 A.D. At this time, Rome was in desperate need of an army and Claudius believed that married men would make less reliable soldiers because they wouldn't want to leave their wives and families. So, Claudius forbids young men to get married. However, Valentine secretly defied Claudius and performed marriage ceremonies in the temple. Soon, he became known as the friend of those in love. Eventually, Claudius discovered what the good priest was doing and the Emperor's anger was so great that he had Valentine thrown in jail. During his imprisonment, Valentine is said to have cured the jailer's daughter of blindness. Because of this miracle, he was sentenced to die...on February 14, 270 A.D. On the day he died, Valentine wrote the girl a note in which he spoke of bonds of affection between people. He signed the message, "*From your Valentine*". According to this legend, it is to honour St. Valentine that we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14; in turn, we are celebrating love and marriage.

Answer the questions

What is the message of Valentine's Day?

_____

When did the priest Valentine live?

_____

Why did the emperor Claudius forbid young men to marry?

_____

What did the priest do?

_____

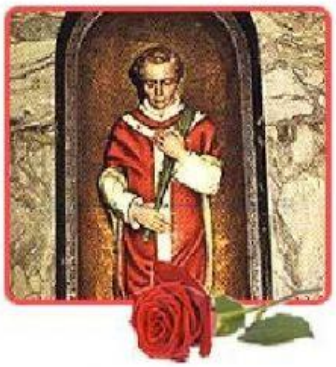
How was he called?

_____

How did he become a Saint?

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS



Another legend of St. Valentine exists...In this tale, Valentine was beloved by the village children because he always allowed them to play in his garden. He was placed in prison by the Romans for refusing to worship their gods. During his imprisonment, the children exchanged notes with him, attached to small bouquets of flowers, flung through the prison bars. Valentine was put to death on February 14th and we commemorate his death by sending flowers, chocolates and love notes on this day each year.

Scholars and historians the world over have yet to come up with a definitive explanation for this day set aside for lovers. Pope Gelasius in the fifth century named Valentine as the patron saint of lovers and appointed it an official feast day. Most sources feel this was done to Christianize many of the pagan courting rituals and festivities celebrated during the month of February.

Answer the questions

Why was Valentine beloved by the children?

_____

Why was he put in prison?

_____

How did people communicate with the prisoner?

_____

When was he executed by the Romans?

_____

Answer the questions

Do you celebrate Valentine's Day?
How do you usually celebrate this day?
How would you like to celebrate this day?
Are you mad when your boyfriend (girlfriend) forgets the day?
Do you expect a present this day?
What would you like to get?
Do you give presents?
What kind of presents do you give?
Do you get many cards from friends?
Do you send cards?
Do you think the day is for friendship or only for lovers?
Do you give presents to friends or only to your beloved one?

LIVEWORKSHEETS