

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

# The Legend of St. Valentine



Every year people celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. They exchange cards, gifts, flowers and chocolates with their sweethearts, friends, and family members. This is how they express their love for each other. This is a day of love and friendship.

Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Valentine's Day? Who was Saint Valentine and why do we celebrate him on this special day?

Historians do not know much about St. Valentine's life. They do agree that he was a real person who lived in Rome, Italy during the third century AD. There are many legends about St. Valentine. This makes it difficult to distinguish between fact and fiction in regards to his life.

St. Valentine lived during the reign of the Emperor Claudius II. The emperor was always fighting many wars. He wanted to protect his empire. Claudius did not want the men in Rome to get married. He believed if the men got married, they would want to stay home with their wives and children. They would not want to become soldiers and go to war.

