

St. Valentine's Day - February 14th!

Many legends surround the history of St. Valentine's Day. One of the most fascinating is that of Saint Valentine himself.

In 269 A.D., a young priest named Valentinus was arrested by the Romans for his Christian beliefs. The Roman Emperor, Claudius II, was a harsh leader and imprisoned Valentinus in a dark dungeon.

A jailer named Asterius took pity on the prisoner and provided him with the company of his blind daughter. The daughter and Valentinus soon became close friends. Their friendship helped sustain Valentinus during his time in prison.

After Valentinus had spent a year in the dungeon, Claudius II summoned him to appear before his court. Claudius was so impressed by the priest's character that he promised to grant him his freedom if he would only denounce Christianity. However, Valentinus refused to give up his belief in God. The Emperor was furious at Valentinus and his stubbornness. He ordered Valentinus to be beaten with stones and executed.

In the last days of his life, St. Valentine is said to have healed Asterius' daughter of blindness and was responsible for converting both of them to Christianity, a decision that later brought on their own deaths, as well.

According to legend, St. Valentine wrote a farewell message to Asterius' daughter the evening of his execution. He signed the note, "From Your Valentine." He was put to death on February 14th, 270 A.D., outside the gates of Rome.

As years went by, the phrase "From Your Valentine" became known as a symbol of love, friendship and affection. St. Valentine is remembered by young and old alike for his devotion and giving nature each year on February 14th.

"LOVE IS PATIENT,
LOVE IS KIND...
LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS,
BELIEVES ALL THINGS,
HOPES ALL THINGS,
ENDURES ALL THINGS.
LOVE NEVER FAILS."

I Corinthians 13:4, 7, 8

