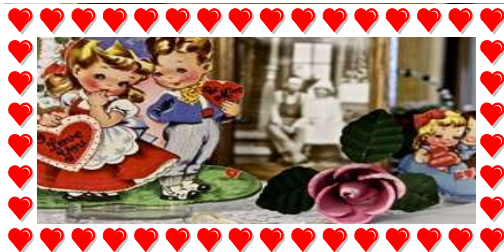


By the Middle Ages, Valentine became one of the most popular saints in England and France. Despite attempts by the Christian church to sanctify the holiday, the association of Valentine's Day with romance and courtship continued through the Middle Ages. The holiday evolved over the centuries, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts began to be created and exchanged between those in love. This tradition spread to the American colonies, and in the 1840s Valentine greeting cards began to be commercially produced. The first American Valentine's Day greeting cards were created by Esther A. Howland (1828-1904) native of Worcester, Mass. She is known as the Mother of the Valentine, who made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Her father operated a large book and stationery store, and she took her inspiration from an English valentine she had received. It was when Howland began producing Valentine's cards on a large scale that the tradition became very popular in the United States.

Today, Valentine's Day is one of the major holidays in America and has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are "valentine's". The Valentine's Day cards are often designed with hearts to symbolize love. The Valentine's Day card spread with Christianity, and is now celebrated worldwide. One of the earliest valentines was sent in 1415AD by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife during his imprisonment in the Tower of London. The card is now preserved in the British Museum.

There may be doubts regarding the actual identity of Valentine, but we know that he really existed because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to a Saint Valentine.

\*\* (excerpted from://theholidayspot.com)



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.pamphletstoinpire.com](http://www.pamphletstoinpire.com)

## *Saint Valentine* *Feast Day February 14th*



*Today, as we celebrate the Feast of St. Valentine,  
let us be inspired by the Saint's abiding  
love and friendship.  
May our hearts be full of love and affection today  
and every moment of our lives.*

## *History of Valentine's Day*

**\*The** association of the middle of February with love dates to ancient times. In ancient Athens, the period between mid-January and mid-February was the month of Gamelion, which was dedicated to the sacred marriage of Zeus and Hera.

In Christianity, at least three different saints were named Valentine, all of them martyrs, and all are mentioned in the early lives of the saints under the date of February 14. Two lived in Italy in the 3rd century: one a priest at Rome, the other as bishop of Terni. They were both martyred in Rome and buried on the Flaminian Way. A third St. Valentine was martyred in North Africa and little is known about his life. Several legends have developed about one of the Valentine's from Italy, who was very popular. \*(excerpted from: www.religionfacts.com )

**\*\*According** to one account of the life of the Roman priest St. Valentine, he opposed a decree by the Roman Emperor Claudius II, on performing marriage ceremonies for young men destined for military service. The Emperor was concerned that the Roman empire nearing the end of its golden era, lacked sufficient quality administrators to govern the vast territory conquered by Rome. Many civil strife's and military campaigns were being waged against various groups that plagued the empire. Capable men were required to be recruited as soldiers and officers' to protect the sprawling empire. Claudius decided that married men would be to emotionally attached to their families, and would not make good soldiers. Therefore, he issued an edict forbidding marriage of young men.

The ban on marriage was a great shock for the Romans. But they did not dare voice any protest against the mighty emperor. Valentine, the priest, realized the injustice of this decree and the trauma young lovers would suffer, if they had no hope of being united in marriage. He countered the Monarch's order by holding secret marriage ceremonies in opposition to the decree. Whenever lovers decided to marry, they went to Father Valentine, who met them in a secret location, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. Many marriages were performed, and eventually, Claudius became aware of this practice and had Valentine arrested.

When Claudius met Valentine, he was impressed by his dignity and conviction. Valentine refused to agree with the emperor regarding the ban on marriage. He also tried to convert Claudius. This angered Claudius who ordered the execution of Valentine.

While awaiting his execution, Valentine was approached by his jailer, Asterius, who mentioned that he had a blind daughter and asked if Valentine could pray for her. Catholic legend has it that Valentine was known to have miraculous powers. It appears that Asterius' daughter did succeed in regaining her eyesight.

Meanwhile, a deep friendship was formed between Valentine and Asterius' daughter. It caused a great deal of grief to the young girl to hear of her father's friend's imminent death. It is said that just before his execution, Valentine asked for a pen and paper from his jailor, and signed a farewell message to Asterius' daughter "From Your Valentine," a phrase that has lived ever after. Valentine was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion. He is believed to have been executed on February 14, 270 AD.

Thus 14th February became a day for all lovers and Valentine became its Patron Saint. It began to be annually observed by young Romans who offered handwritten greetings of affection, known as Valentines, on this day to the women they admired. With the coming of Christianity, the day came to be known as St. Valentine's Day, when in 496, Pope Gelasius proclaimed Feb. 14 to be a feast day in honor of St. Valentine, a 3rd Century Roman martyr. It is this St. Valentine whom the modern Valentine Day honors.

But it was only during the 14th century that St. Valentine's Day became definitively associated with love. UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of "Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine", credits Chaucer as the one who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance. In medieval France and England it was believed that birds mated on February 14, hence, Chaucer used the image of birds as the symbol of lovers in poems dedicated to the day. In Chaucer's "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are related: "For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every fowl cometh there to choose his mate."