Happy Valentine's Day

I hope you enjoy a few facts about Valentine's Day.

Officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, **St**. **Valentine** is known to be a **real** person who died around A.D. 270. ... The Catholic Church discontinued liturgical veneration of him in 1969, though his name remains on its list of officially recognized **saints**.

The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our modern **day** of love. Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named **Valentine** — on Feb. 14 of different years in the 3rd century A.D. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. **Valentine's Day.**

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap."

Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at Christmas). Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

What does the Bible say about Valentine's Day? 1 John 4:7-12. Dear friends: let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

May we keep that verse "let us love one another" in mind as we celebrate Valentine's Day.

Happy Valentines Everybody!

Deacon Mike