

Saint Valentine

Patron of Love, Young People & Happy Marriages

Feast Day February 14



February 2014 Monthly Saint Reflections
St. Patrick & St. Margaret Mary Church



The Origin of St. Valentine

Died: 269 - Feast day – February 14

The origin of St. Valentine, and how many St. Valentines there were, remains a mystery. One opinion is that he was a Roman martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Other historians hold that St. Valentine was a temple priest jailed for defiance during the reign of Claudius. Whoever he was, Valentine really existed because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom.

The first representation of Saint Valentine appeared in a The Nuremberg Chronicle, a great-illustrated book printed in 1493. [Additional evidence that Valentine was a real person: archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine.] Alongside a woodcut portrait of him, text states that Valentinus was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius the Goth [Claudius II].

Since he was caught marrying Christian couples and aiding any Christians who were being persecuted under Emperor Claudius in Rome [when helping them was considered a crime], Valentinus was arrested and imprisoned. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner -- until Valentinus made a strategic error: he tried to convert the Emperor --

whereupon this priest was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't do it, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate [circa 269].

Saints are not supposed to rest in peace; they're expected to keep busy: to perform miracles, to intercede. Being in jail or dead is no excuse for non-performance of the supernatural. One legend says, while awaiting his execution, Valentinus restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. Another legend says, on the eve of his death, he penned a farewell note to the jailer's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."

St. Valentine was a Priest, martyred in 269 at Rome and was buried on the Flaminian Way. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, beekeepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.

Who was St. Valentine?

Valentine was a holy priest in Rome, who, with St. Marius and his family, assisted the martyrs in the persecution under Claudius II. He was apprehended, and sent by the emperor to the prefect of Rome, who, on finding all his promises to make him renounce his faith ineffectual, commanded him to be beaten with clubs, and afterwards, to be beheaded, which was executed on February 14, about the year 270.

Pope Julius I is said to have built a church near Ponte Mole to his memory, which for a long time gave name to the gate now called Porta del Popolo, formerly, Porta Valetini. The greatest part of his relics are now in the church of St. Praxedes. His name is celebrated as that of an illustrious martyr in the sacramentary of St. Gregory, the Roman Missal of Thomasius, in the calendar of F. Fronto and that of Allatius, in Bede, Usuard, Ado, Notker and all other martyrologies on this day.

To abolish the heathen's lewd superstitious custom of boys drawing the names of girls, in honor of their goddess Februata Juno, on the fifteenth of this month, several zealous pastors substituted the names of saints in billets given on this day.

St Margaret Mary and St Patrick

February 2014

Saint Valentine

Week 1: Prepare

1. As a family, choose a room to gather in your home.
2. Include items to use such as a Bible, cross or crucifix, candle, rosary, etc.
3. Read about Saint Valentine included in the packet.
4. Talk about what made him special. How can you follow Saint Valentine's example?
5. Valentine's symbol is a heart, to represent the weddings he presided over. Prepare a valentine for a loved one using the shape of a heart.
6. Pray the prayer on the sheet included in the packet.

Week 2: Take Action

1. As a family, choose a room to gather in your home.
2. Include items to use such as a Bible, cross or crucifix, candle, rosary, etc.
3. Saint Valentine carried out works of mercy by marrying Christian couples and aiding any Christians who were being persecuted under Emperor Claudius.
4. Create Valentine themed treats (see Valentine Craft page) and donate to the St. Patrick Soup Kitchen, or deliver to shut-ins.
5. Pray the prayer on the sheet included in the packet.

Week 3: Discern

1. As a family, choose a room to gather in your home.
2. Include items to use such as a Bible, cross or crucifix, candle, rosary, etc
3. Pray for those who are lonely.
4. What are some ways you can share your blessing with others?
5. Do the Word Search activity in this packet, and discuss the meanings of the words you are trying to locate.

Week 4: Take Action

1. As a family, choose a room to gather in your home.
2. Include items to use such as a Bible, cross or crucifix, candle, rosary, etc
3. What actions can you take personally to follow St. Valentine's example?
4. Perhaps as a family, donate time at the Soup Kitchen or Catholic charities. Pray the prayer on the sheet included in the packet.
5. Encourage your family to reach out to people who are lonely or homeless, in any way possible.



Prayer to Saint Valentine

Dear Lord, who art high in the Heavens,
Giver of Love and Passion,
And He who strings the heart's cords,
Lead the Lovers this day,
February ten plus four.
The day during the month of two,
When the date is the perfect number of God
Greater two souls and two hearts.
Some Loves are fleeting,
But that which is built on you will never
fail.
So guide the Lovers to know what is to be.
Your truths the Lovers' mouths should
speak,
For Your truth is that which is honest to the
heart.
Only this, then, should pass over the red
lips of the Lovers.
Your art, the Lovers simply a medium.
It is only with True Hearts that You can
create a Masterpiece,
So let the Lovers remember that their
Soul's Desire
Is the one for which You light their Fire.
And let it be You who creates the Art of the
Lovers;
The art of two into one.
Amen.

A Prayer for Valentine's Day

Praise to the One whose love stirs the
ancient embers
Sparks the breath of prayer
Praise to the One whose love entices the
wandering
Beckons the confused
Praise to the One whose love grows wings
on the weary
Dreams hope in the discouraged
Praise to the One whose love soothes with
the ointment of mercy
Transforms with the touch of compassion
Praise to the One whose love threads the
energy of friendship
Stitches the strength of fidelity
Praise to the One whose love tickles the
soul with laughter
Urges the heart toward joy
Praise to the One whose love embraces the
untamed
Dances with the passionate
All praise to this Gracious One
All gratitude to this Beloved
All Love to this Mentor of Friendship
All freedom to this Shaper of Hearts.

Valentine Craft Instructions

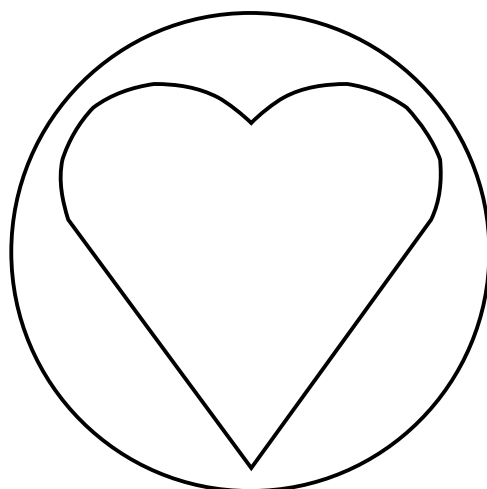
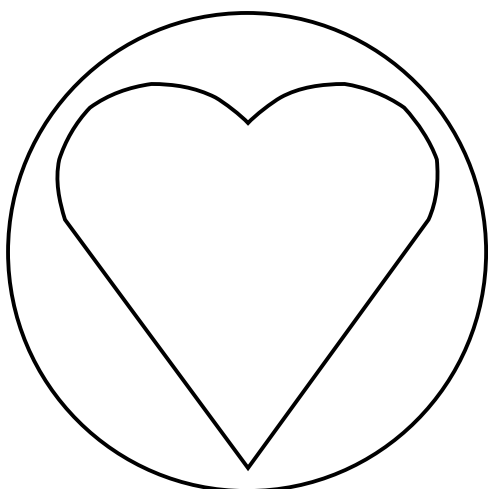
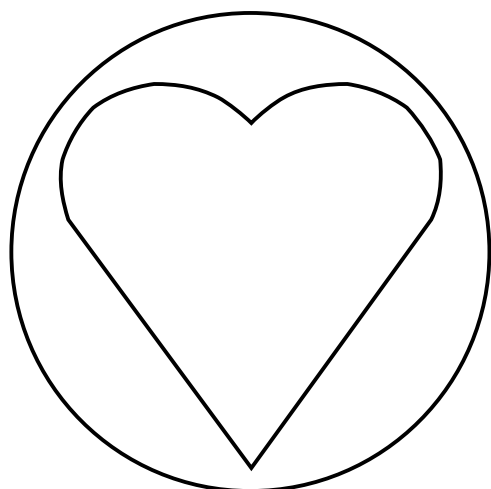
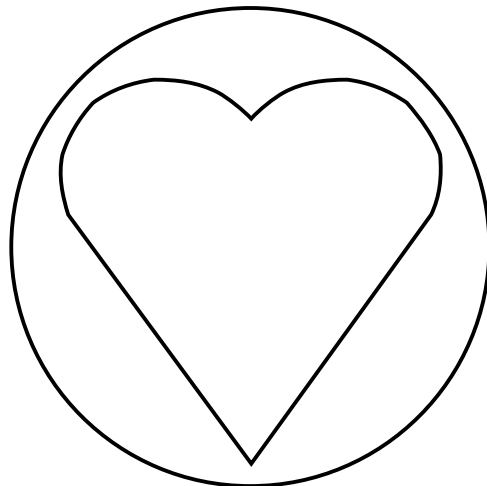
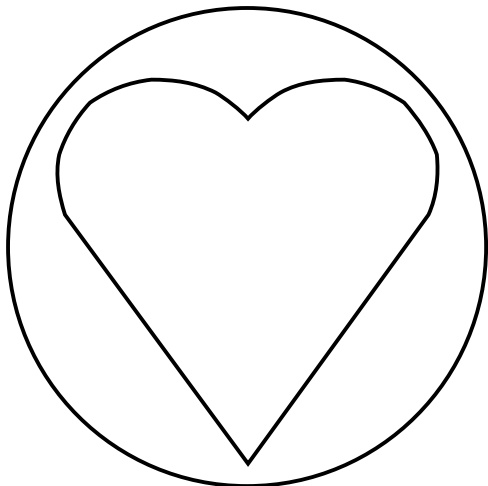
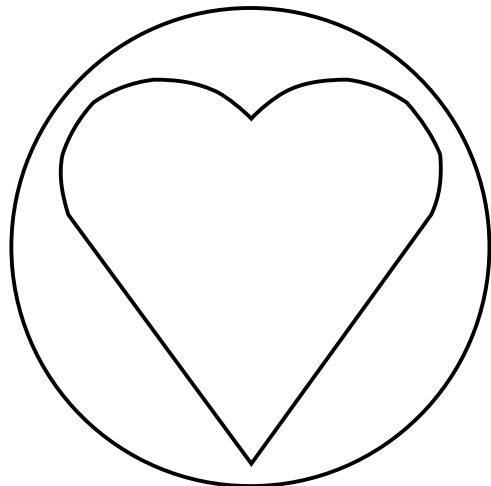
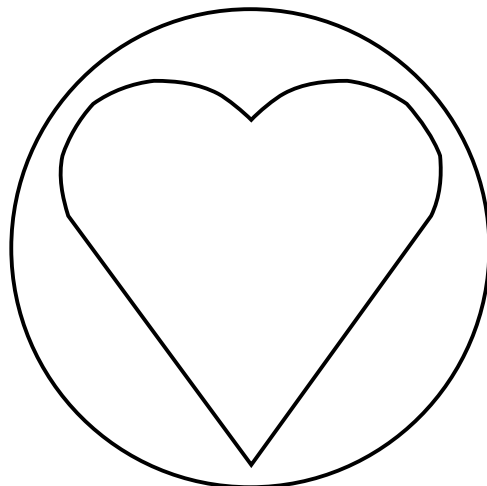
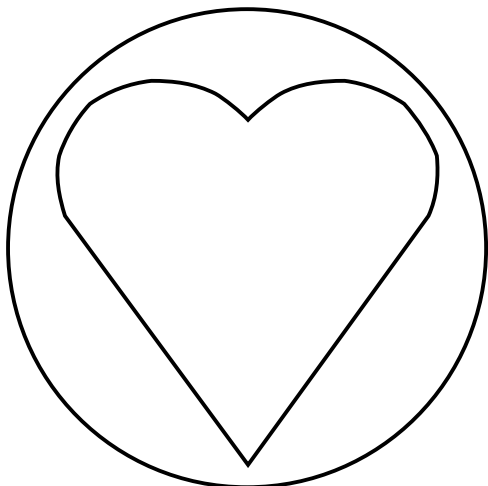
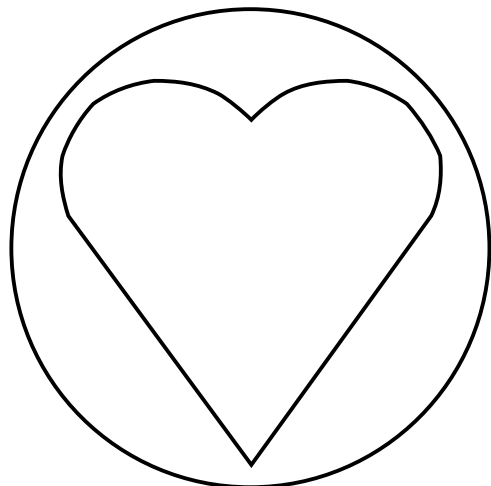
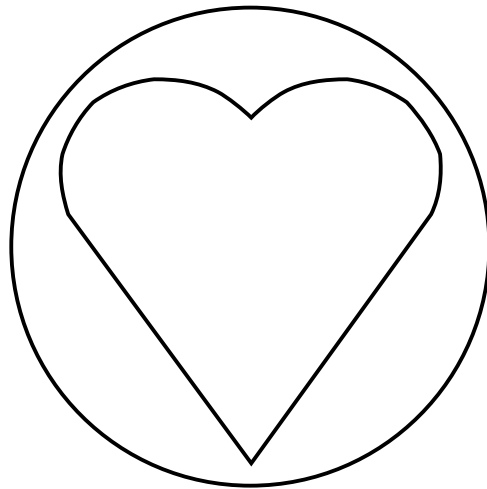
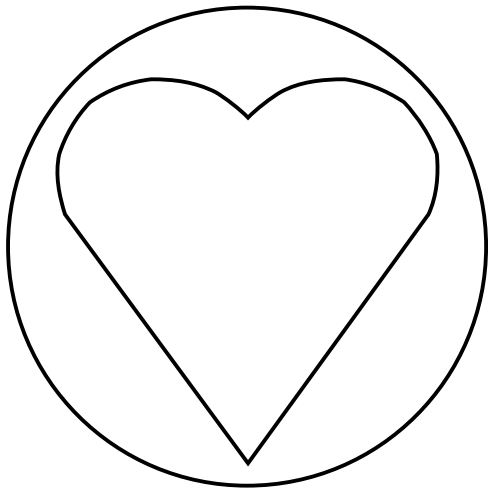
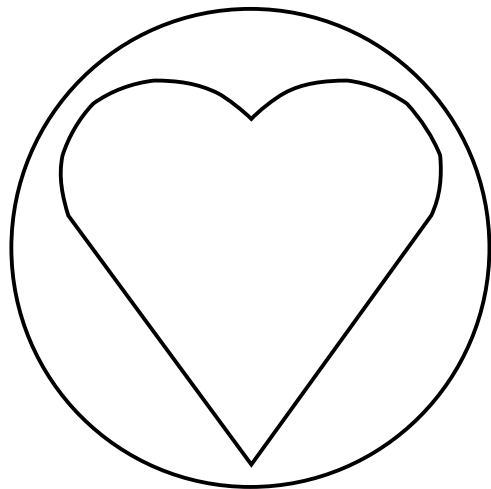
Required Materials:

1-Dozen Frosted Cupcakes (Homemade or Store Bought)
6-Drinking Straws
Assorted Crayons or Colored Markers
Optional Trimmings (Glue, glitter, yarn, lace, beads, etc.)
1-Roll of Scotch Tape
Scissors
Sheet with Heart Outlines

Directions:

1. If there are multiple family members decorating, divide the “Valentine Craft Sheet” so each person has multiple hearts to embellish.
2. Use Crayons & Craft supplies to decorate the hearts found on the “Valentine Craft Sheet” – be imaginative! Add personal messages to each heart (examples, “Be Mine” or “Happy Valentine’s Day”)
3. If you have used glue to apply decorations or glitter – allow time to glue to set before handling the hearts. Once glue has dried, carefully use the scissors to cut out each heart.
4. Cut each drinking straw in half, and tape the top of straw to the back of 1-decorated heart.
5. Insert one decorated heart/straw into the center of a cupcake.
6. Bring your decorated cupcakes to the Soup Kitchen or a Local Shelter for local residents to enjoy a special Valentine treat.





Feast of St. Valentine

Name: _____

Date: _____

VALENTINE	HEAVEN	MIRACLE	MASS
MARTYR	MARIUS	ALMOND	EUCCHARIST
PRIEST	PERSECUTION	PARCHMENT	FOURTEENTH
WEDDING	JUSTICE	NOTES	SAINT
CATACOMB	ROME	SACRIFICE	
CLAUDIUS	FEBRUARY	COURAGE	



M	A	R	I	U	S	X	D	M	I	R	A	C	L	E
W	K	I	D	P	E	R	S	E	C	U	T	I	O	N
H	U	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	N	E	O	C	R	O
B	W	H	V	L	V	P	S	A	I	N	T	A	P	U
B	L	H	A	F	O	U	R	T	E	E	N	T	H	C
C	P	E	L	M	I	E	L	A	C	H	C	A	I	E
L	A	A	E	A	W	U	X	P	Y	Y	A	C	M	D
A	R	V	N	R	A	C	L	W	R	E	V	O	N	O
U	C	E	T	T	N	H	G	A	G	Z	R	M	B	J
D	H	N	I	Y	K	A	U	P	A	U	B	B	J	I
I	M	O	N	R	T	R	M	J	U	S	T	I	C	E
U	E	T	E	N	B	I	S	P	R	I	E	S	T	E
S	N	E	M	E	S	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E
Z	T	S	F	J	A	T	W	E	D	D	I	N	G	K



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