

Simple story of ST. VALENTINE retold for children to understand.

Saint Valentine lived a long, long, time ago when Claudius II was the ruler of Rome. Claudius II was a very powerful leader. There were two important things to know about this king. First, Claudius II did not like Christians. Second, he loved having lots of soldiers to fight in his wars!

Claudius II thought having soldiers for his wars was so important that he made a law that people couldn't get married. Claudius II thought that if young boys got married and had families they would not want to go off and fight in his wars.

This made things really tricky for the Christians following God. First, they knew that God wanted them to worship Him, not the false gods of Claudius II. Second, they knew that God wanted them to get married and start families.

So, Valentine, had the special job of being God's helper during this time. He was a bishop, so he would secretly marry the men and women who wanted to get married, which is why he is called the patron saint of love and marriage. But all secrets are hard to keep, and soon the word got out. Valentine was arrested and brought before the emperor who demanded he stop. When he refused, he was put in prison. While in prison, the jailor's daughter used to bring him his food. She was a young woman who was unfortunately blind. They would talk for many hours, and soon they fell in love. One day, Valentine put his hands through the bars of the cell and touched the lids of her closed eyes. When she opened them, she could see! It was miracle!

On his last night on earth, which was February 14, Valentine wrote her a letter, and he signed his love letter, "From Your Valentine." Ever since, lovers have sent messages on February 14 with the same signature.