
The Story of St. Valentine

St. Valentine was a Christian priest who lived in 270 A.D. At that time, the Roman government controlled much of the world.

The Roman government needed many soldiers to protect its lands. Emperor Claudius II decided that married men did not make good soldiers because they wanted to stay at home with their wives and children. He made a very strange law that said young men were not allowed to marry. He also said that any priest who married a young couple would be put to death.

A priest named Valentine disobeyed the Emperor. He secretly married many young couples. When the Emperor found out, he had Valentine imprisoned. Valentine was beheaded for his disobedience on February 14. Since Valentine had helped lovers, the day he died became a day for people to express love for others.

Read and answer.

When did St. Valentine live?

Why did the Roman government need many soldiers?

What strange law did the Emperor make?

How did St. Valentine break the law?

What do people do on the day of his death?

List three adjectives that you would use to describe St. Valentine.

St. Valentine chose to disobey what he believed to be a bad law. Do you agree or disagree with his choice? Why or why not?

