

Devotion, Week of February 9, 2025
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

This week we celebrate Valentine's Day, usually with chocolate! Works for me. St. Valentine was martyred around 269 A.D. under the reign of Emperor Claudius. One story is that he was arrested for performing Christian weddings, allowing the husbands involved to escape conscription into the Roman army. This legend claims that soldiers were sparse at the time, so this was a great inconvenience to the emperor. The account mentions that in order "to remind these men of their vows and God's love, Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment." This is why we give "valentines" today.

So when we celebrate love and marriage on Valentines Day, we might want to remember the sacredness of those wedding vows, and the sacrifice he made for those Christian couples in the time of a terrible persecution of those with the Christian faith. God loves us and that enables us to love one another. God fills our hearts with gladness, and I hope you can feel that on this special day.

Yours in Christ,

Jeanne