

## February 14 – St. Valentine’s Day

“... and the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

According to Catholic history there were two martyred saints named Valentine. Little is known about either saint; however, there are legends about their lives and both have to do with the great love they had for God and others. St. Pope Gelasius I named February 14 as St. Valentine’s Day in A.D. 496.

In A.D. 200 the emperor of Rome thought single men made better soldiers than married ones and he prohibited young men from marriage. According to one legend, St. Valentine secretly married couples.

The second St. Valentine was a very Christian man who was very good to the children in his town. When Valentine was imprisoned for refusing to worship the Roman gods, the children threw notes of love and good wishes through the bars of his jail cell. Legend also states that Valentine performed a miracle while in jail by restoring the sight of his jailer’s daughter.

### Prayer

On this Valentine’s Day, we celebrate the love God has for us and the love we have for others. How lucky we are to have so much love in our lives! God of Love, we thank you today for the greatest gift of all, love. We thank you for our families, teachers and friends who have shown us how to love. Help us to remember on this Valentine’s Day and everyday that love is the greatest gift we can give or receive. Amen.

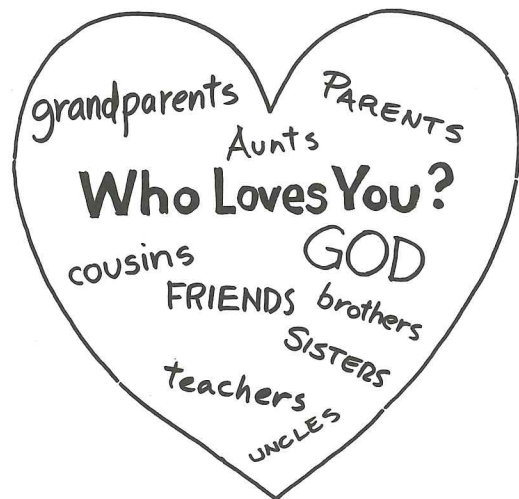
### Activities

#### *The Gift of Love*

Talk about how we share and show love to the people in our lives. Answer the question, “Who loves you?” Make a list of these people on a large paper heart and display it in your room.

#### *Heart Hunt*

Decorate your classroom with red heart cutouts. Tape them at the eye level of the children. Don’t forget the bathroom, doors, cupboards, the backs and fronts of chairs and the floor. At the end of the day have a, “Heart Hunt” and give an extra treat to the child that collects the most paper hearts.



## Ash Wednesday ☺ ALL

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time we all strive to grow closer to God.

### ☐ **To do:**

Talk with the children about the season of Lent. Compare it to Advent when we get ready for Christmas. Remind the children that during Lent we prepare ourselves for Easter. Set some goals with the children—things they would like to do to grow closer to God. Come up with a service project and theme to explore throughout the Lenten season.

Set up a special prayer corner. Include a candle cross and anything else that would reflect your theme. Place a collection basket for the service project items you are looking for. Gather in your prayer space and pray together,



Dear Lord,  
Thank you for the gift of Jesus. We love him so much.  
Be with us as we begin this season of Lent. Help us to  
grow closer to you in all we say and do. Amen.

Bless children by tracing a cross on their forehead and  
saying, "May our dear Lord Jesus bless you,  
(name of the child) during Lent."