

From: **St. Francis Episcopal Church** vicar@stfrancisva.org
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St Francis





February 15, 2017

Happy Valentine's Day!

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.
I John 4:11+12

Valentine's Day

Yesterday was Valentine's Day. For one thing Carol and I celebrate our wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day. It's a perfect day to celebrate the years of marriage we have shared. A second thing about Valentine's Day is that it commemorates the life of St. Valentine.

St. Valentine

There is much that is unclear about the life of Valentine. It's possible that some of the stories we have about Valentine apply to more than one person of the same name. The power of the story is still, however, compelling. Here is a paragraph I have copied from Wikipedia that tells part of the story better than I am able to tell it:

A common hagiography describes Saint Valentine as a priest of Rome or as the former Bishop of [Terni](#), [Narnia](#) and [Amelia](#), a town of [Umbria](#), in central [Italy](#). While under house arrest of Judge

Asterius, and discussing his faith with him, Valentinus (the Latin version of his name) was discussing the validity of [Jesus](#). The judge put Valentinus to the test and brought to him the judge's adopted blind daughter. If Valentinus succeeded in restoring the girl's sight, Asterius would do whatever he asked. Valentinus laid his hands on her eyes and the child's vision was restored. Immediately humbled, the judge asked Valentinus what he should do. Valentinus replied that all of the [idols](#) around the judge's house should be broken, and that the judge should fast for three days and then undergo [baptism](#). The judge obeyed and, as a result, freed all the [Christian](#) inmates under his authority. The judge, his family, and his forty-four member [household](#) (family members and servants) were baptized.

[21] Valentinus was later arrested again for continuing to proselytize and was sent to the prefect of Rome, to the emperor [Claudius Gothicus](#) (Claudius II) himself. Claudius took a liking to him until Valentinus tried to convince Claudius to embrace Christianity, whereupon Claudius refused and condemned Valentinus to death, commanding that Valentinus either renounce his faith or he would be beaten with clubs, and beheaded. Valentinus refused and Claudius' command was executed outside the [Flaminian Gate](#) February 14, 269.

The love Valentine had for God, his enemies, and all others shows how he had been transformed by the love of Jesus. We may not be called upon to live and die in the way Valentine did, but we can ask God to keep transforming us by the love of Jesus every day of our lives.

PS- Did you catch the part about the judge's forty four member household becoming Christians and being baptized all at the same time?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, February 19, 2017 Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, February 25, 2017 Worship at 10:00am

Please bring non perishable food to worship to be distributed to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For OT Nails that business would increase

FOR QUESTIONS THAT BUSINESS WOULD INCREASE.

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Aquia, Stafford; S. Margaret's, Woodbridge; Holy Cross, Dunn Loring; All Souls, Atlee; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg. That they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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