



## St. Valentine's Day

There are several legends about St. Valentine's Day. One of the legends says that Valentine was an Italian bishop who lived in the 3 century A.D. He was put into prison because he secretly married couples, contrary to the laws of the Roman Empire. The legend says that he was burnt at the stake.

February 14 was also a Roman holiday. On this day young men randomly chose the name of the girl to escort to the festival. The custom of choosing a sweetheart on this day became very popular in the medieval Europe. Later this custom spread to American colonies.

Now, St. Valentine's Day is the day of sweethearts. On this day people send candy or flowers to those whom they love. Most people send 'valentines'. Valentines can be sentimental and romantic, or funny and friendly. Valentines can be anonymous. Valentines can be heart-shaped or can carry hearts on them. People buy valentines or make them themselves.

### Vocabulary:

*A.D.* – до Рождества Христова

*bishop* – епископ

*couple* – пара

*to be burnt at the stake* – быть сожженным на костре

*randomly* – случайно

*to escort* – сопровождать

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*to send* – посылать

*to sign* – подписывать

*card* – открытка

*to guess* – догадываться

*(a fragment)*

Look at these beautiful red roses. And here is a card. Shhh! Let's have a look.

'To my darling Julia with lot and lot of love from...' And look – there isn't a name! But look at all those kisses.

Why? Because the day is a very romantic day. It's St. Valentine's Day. On the fourteen the February people send cards to someone they're in love with. But they don't sign the cards.

How do you know who it's from? You don't. You guess!