



Kids Bulletin

February 2023

Learn about Saints, Rosa Parks Day, National Pizza Day, and Valentines Day.



Our Lady of Lourdes — Feast Day February 11th

Each year over 2 million people make their way through the mountainous country of southeastern France to Lourdes. They come seeking cures, hoping to find answers, believing, and praying. At Lourdes, people recall the Lady dressed in white, with a blue sash, yellow roses at her feet, and a Rosary on her arm—the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On February 11, 1858, Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous. This was the first of 18 visits, many of them with 20,000 people present.

When Bernadette asked the Lady's identity, she replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Just four years earlier, the pope had proclaimed it a dogma that Mary was conceived immaculate without original sin.

The Blessed Virgin, through Bernadette, had come to call sinners to a change of heart. Her message was a request for prayer and penance. She also instructed Bernadette to tell the priests that a chapel was to be built on the site and processions held.

On February 25, 1858, the Lady told Bernadette to



dig in the dirt and drink of the stream. Bernadette began to dig, and after several attempts she was able to find the water to drink. The water continued to flow from where she had dug with her hands until it was producing over 32,000 gallons of water a day—as it still does. There have been over 5,000 cures recorded but less than 100 of them have been declared miraculous by the Church. Most of these have taken place during the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

Today we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We may never travel to Lourdes and join in the processions, but we can know always that we have a Mother to help us and lead us to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray to her:

**Grant us, O merciful God, protection in our weakness,
that we, who keep the Memorial of the Immaculate Mother of God,
may, with the help of her intercession,
rise up from our iniquities.**

**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.**

Rosa Parks Day – Feb. 4th

Rosa Parks Day is an American commemorative day that takes place on February 4, the day of Rosa Parks's birthday.

However, the States of Ohio and Oregon celebrate this day on December 1st, the day of her arrest. It is not a public holiday, so businesses run during normal working hours.

Rosa Parks Day became an official observance in the United States when a California State Legislature was passed in 2000.

However, this day was not formally recognized until 2014 in the States of Missouri and Oregon, by the hands of Governors Jay Nixon and Kitzhaber, respectively.

Who was Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement, who gained notoriety after refusing to give up her bus seat for a white person on a segregated bus.

This led to the significant Montgomery Bus Boycott, which marked the end of racial segregation in Alabama.

For her efforts, Parks was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr.'s award by the NAACP, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Honoring Rosa Parks

For her efforts and struggles, Rosa Parks has been honored and remembered in America in several ways.

In 2000, Troy University opened the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Henry Ford took over the Rosa Park bus in 2001 and it stands to date in its full glory at the Henry Ford Museum and reminds us of her bravery.



ROSA PARKS (1913–). Civil-rights activist. On December 1, 1955, Parks had the courage to refuse to give up her seat to a white person on a crowded bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She

was arrested and tried, triggering the boycott organized by Martin Luther King, Jr. Desegregated service on the bus system began on December 21.

More recently, in 2019, a statue of Parks has been unveiled in the same place, as a memorial to the 64th anniversary of her arrest.

National Pizza Day — February 9th

Pizza is so popular in America that there are countless holidays to celebrate it. There is National Deep Dish Pizza Day on April 5, National Pizza Party Day on May 15, National Pepperoni Pizza Day on September 20, and International Beer and Pizza Day on October 9, amongst many others.

Background

There is no information about who or when National Pizza Day was created, but like many food holidays it probably naturally originated from its popularity. However, the history of pizza and how it arrived in the United States is extensively recorded.

In ancient times, people in Rome, Egypt and Greece would eat flatbreads with different toppings on them. At that time, the flatbreads resembled modern focaccia more than pizza, but the origins of pizza can be traced all the way back to those flatbreads.

Pizza as we know it today originates from the Italian city of Naples, in the Campania region. During the 18th and 19th century, Naples was a densely populated city, which meant that there was a high population of working-class and poor people, who could only afford to eat food that was inexpensive and quick to eat.

How to Celebrate National Pizza Day

This is the best thing about National Pizza Day: you celebrate it by eating it!



Valentine's Day, or alternatively Saint Valentine's Day or Feast of Saint Valentine, takes place every year **on February 14th**.

For centuries, February has been known as the month of Romance, and on the 14th lovers participate in the exchange of special gifts between themselves, such as flowers, with the most popular being red roses, and chocolates, or even jewelry. The happy couples also take this day to go on romantic dates.

Who was St. Valentine?

While no one is sure of who the original Saint Valentine was, many believe that the character is created from a combination of Catholic Church saints and martyrs who lived in ancient Rome.

The most popular theories are of a Priest who lived in the 3rd century during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. Claudius outlawed marriage for young men, as he believed single men would perform better as soldiers, and it was harder for married men to join the army. However, Valentine continued to marry young men and women in secret and was sentenced to death by Emperor Claudius II for it. Another Valentine who may have lent his name to this holiday is one that was also killed in ancient Rome for helping prisoners escape prison. A prisoner himself, he is known for writing a card to his prison guard's daughter, who visited him while he was incarcerated, declaring his love for her. He signed it "From your Valentine", which is still the most popular way for people to sign their cards today.

Today, St. Valentine is the patron saint of love, lovers, couples, young people, travellers and greetings.

The background of Valentine's Day traditions

The exchange of Valentine's Day cards with declarations of love goes back to the 1500s, with people making their own handmade cards, often decorating them with ribbons and lace. In the late 1700s, romantic cards started being commercialized, and they usually depicted the image of the god of love, Cupid, and hearts, images that still prevail on this day, as symbols of Valentine's day.

The Greeting Card Association estimates that in America, every year, around 145 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged.

I LOVE YOU TO
PIECES!

