

Sister's Spin

February 2, 2023

In the late 1880s, someone started the tradition that today we call Groundhog Day, but in the 4th Century the Catholic Church started a tradition of celebrating the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world on this day. It recalled the Jewish Tradition of dedicating the first born son to God and presenting that child to God in the Temple. Mary and Joseph did this with Jesus, going to Jerusalem 40 days after his birth and presenting two turtle doves to God as they dedicated Him to the Lord according to the Mosaic Law. It was there that Simeon rejoiced that he had seen Jesus, a revelation to the Gentiles as well as to the Jewish Nation and Anna, a faithful widow, spread the news of His birth. On this day, because Jesus is a light to the world, many churches and parishes held ceremonies during Mass to bless all the candles that would be used in worship services during the coming year. This is still done in some places today. People are given blessed candles to use in their home in times of celebration as well as in times of danger or crises, Since these were blessed at Mass, hence the day came to be called Candlemas Day. It is a day to remember that we are called, by our Baptism, to be a light to others also, so it is a good day to light a candle, and as you gaze at its beauty and the warmth it shares, to think about how you spread the light of Christ to the world around you. Be a little light today and take notice of who brightens up your life these days.

-Sister Marcianne

