

February 2 ~ two "National" Holidays CANDLEMAS DAY and GROUNDHOG DAY



Since 14th century A.D. in Jerusalem, one of the many celebrated holy feasts in the Christian calendar is Candlemas Day, February 2nd, also known as the *Feast of the Presentation* (or the *Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary*). This date is typically the 40th day of the Christmas epiphany season. On Candlemas Day, clergy bless and distribute candles to represent Jesus' command that his followers be a "light in the world." It has become an important day within the church and continues to be commemorated around the world.

Another day of celebration on February 2nd is Groundhog Day. In the 1700s, when the German-speaking immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, they developed their own take on the legend of Candlemas. They wanted a representation of an animal to protect their crops and needs for the winter. They transformed the idea by selecting the native groundhog as their annual weather announcer.



Around 1886, the first-ever Groundhog Day was created by a local newspaper editor, Clymer Freas. He convinced a group of local businessmen and groundhog hunters (collectively known as the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club) on the idea of Groundhog Day. Now each year on February 2nd, people flock to Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to await the forecast of the local rodent celebrity, Punxsutawney Phil. A group called "the inner circle" who wear top hats, conduct the official proceedings in a Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. In front of the crowds, Phil is said to speak to the club president in Groundhogese which is understood and then translated. Legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow on February 2nd, the winter chill will continue. However, if the weather is cloudy and he doesn't see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and an early spring. We just have to wait and see.

TRIVIA NIGHTS!

Downtown New Port Richey Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday!

Tuesday ~ 7pm – 9pm
The Social
5650 Main Street

Wednesday ~ 7:30pm – 9pm
Dented Keg
5500 Main Street

Thursday 7pm
Ordinance One
5738 Main Street



Thank You to all the volunteers who helped put up and take down the holiday decorations!
Your efforts are much appreciated!

February Birthdays

2/16 Joann Elia
2/25 Margaret Braun
2/27 Jadranka Bajra