***The OTHER 40 Days***

One of the joys of the Faith of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is a Church Calendar. Of course, even a cursory reading of the history of various Church Calendars will indicate a great deal of disagreement, but just for a moment consider this: The Church in her infinite wisdom has given us Feast Days and Observances that, when followed, become a part of our anticipated joys. Without meaning to be negative, note that it’s already Valentine’s Day - SAINT Valentine’s Day in most stores. It makes sense, since people want to plan ahead but before SAINT Valentine’s Day and SAINT Patrick’s day became secularized the Church had been celebrating numerous days that brought joy to worshipers. Sadly, even some churches and clergy have allowed the secular calendar to prevail. Of course, we live in the world so why not celebrate secular events - but not to the exclusion of what the Church has provided for millennia.

 Let’s start by recognizing that the Epiphany Season is seen as a “let down” from Christmas celebrations - but it shouldn’t have to happen.

 As we know the Twelve Days of Christmas culminate with the Epiphany and the Sunday after Epiphany is the Theophany - the Baptism of our Lord. Of course, there are numerous Saints Days along the way. But count from Christmas Day forward 40 days - and what do we find? We find the Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary/ Candlemas - the blessing of candles. Once again this means that we are a Bible Church and just for fun: see St. Luke Chapter 2.

 I will tell you more during these Forty Days, but let’s commit ourselves to preparing for that Feast Day and not allow it to become less important than Ground Hog Day.