

Interesting Facts about the Celebration of Theophany

River Jordan is mentioned in the Bible more than 150 times, but the most important episode is involving undoubtedly Epiphany: **"The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ"**; this is reported by all 4 Evangelists (Matthew 3: 13-17, Mark 1: 9-11, Luke 3: 21-22 and, John 1: 29-34).

The Old Israel attributed the crossing of the river Jordan to coming to the Promised Land, that was the end of slavery in a foreign land.

For the **Christian Church – the New Israel** – Jordan represents flowing to a new spiritual state and the purification through baptism in order to enter the kingdom of God.

Those who have visited the Holy Land or those who plan to visit in the future, should know that **when one stands on the Israeli side, the current of the Jordan always flows toward the right.** This can be confirmed by anyone who visits the Jordan at any time of the year.

Every year, however, on the day before Epiphany (according to the Julian Calendar, January 18), during the blessing of the waters, the miracle of the River Jordan reversing its flow takes place. The miracle repeats every January 18 – some years with more intensity.

According to our Holy Orthodox Church, the miracle occurred when Jesus entered the Jordan River to get baptized by the Great Prophet and Saint: John the Baptist when **"the Jordan reversed its flow!"**

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



January 5, 2014

Sunday before Theophany

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January 5, 2014

Sunday before Theophany

Commemoration of: Eve of Theophany; Martyrs Theopemptos and Theonas;
Micah the Prophet; Apollinaria of Egypt

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Effrenetho ta urania (Hymn of the Day) Tone 3

Apestrefeto pote (Hymn of the Forefeast) Tone 4

*Jordan River once turned back when Elisha struck its stream * with his mantle in the wake of Elias's ascent; * and the water was parted to the one side and to the other. * And thus the fluid stream became a dry way for him, * a symbol and truly a type of Baptism, * by which we now pass over the streaming passage of the present life. * And Christ appeared at the Jordan River * to sanctify the waters.*

Tou Stavrou Sou (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

En tis rithris simeron Tone 3

*To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."*

Epistle Reading

2 Timothy 4:5-8

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This Week

Sun 1/5– Blessing of the Waters; 2014 Parish Council Oath of Office and Internal Election of Officers; ***Strict Fast Day***

Mon 1/6– Epiphany/Theophany: *Orthros* 8:30 am, *Divine Liturgy* 9:30 am, followed by the *Blessing of the Waters*

Tues 1/7– Synaxis of St. John the Baptist: *Orthros* 8:30 am, *Divine Liturgy* 9:30 am

Thurs 1/9– *Parish Council Meeting*– 5:30 pm

Sat 1/11– *Marriage Blessing for Aquiles and Alba Castillo*- 4 pm

Sun 1/12– Vasilopita Celebration

Announcement for Epiphany/Theophany Celebrations & Luncheon

Our annual celebration of throwing the Cross at Waikiki and luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel are scheduled for Sunday, January 19, 2014, beginning at 11:30 a.m. *Orthros* will begin at 8 a.m., followed by *Divine Liturgy* at 9 a.m. to accommodate the day's festivities. Seating is limited, so please purchase your tickets as soon as possible! Tickets are priced as follows: Adults \$30 (price will be raised to \$35 after January 11th). Children (4 to 12) \$0.