

## Miracles at Epiphany

taken from Mystagogy.com

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!"**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



### 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



December 30, 2018

Sunday after Christmas

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Commemoration of: Anysia of Thessalonica; Gideon of Mount Athos

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### Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*I genesis su* (Nativity) Tone 4

*Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.* (AgesInitiatives.com)

*Angelike thinamis* (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 6

*When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, and those who guarded it became still as dead, and standing by Your grave was Mary seeking Your most pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin (woman), bestowing the gift of life. You who have risen from the dead, Lord glory to You.*

*I genesis su* (Nativity) Tone 4

*Evangelizu Iosif* (Ancestors of God) Tone 2

*Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.* (AgesInitiatives.com)

*Tou Stavru Su* (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 are the lover of mankind.* (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Kontakion Tone 3

*I Parthenos simeron*

*On this day the Virgin gives \*birth to the Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \* earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. \* Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. \* He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.* (AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading Galatians 1:11-19

BRETHREN, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that

I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

### Activities & Announcements

Today

SUN, 12/30– Sunday after Christmas; Annual Memorial for Pero and Branka, beloved parents of Dianna Graves

2019 Stewardship Forms & Envelopes– You will be able to turn in your 2019 Pledge and Time & Talent forms today. If you did not receive your new Stewards Packet in the mail, please let Sarah Cleopatra Kritikos know, and she will provide one. Steward Envelopes will be distributed once Cleo receives your completed forms.

This Coming Week

TUE, 1/1– Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil the Great: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.; HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SAT 1/5– Eve of Epiphany: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Liturgy 9:30 a.m. followed by the Blessing of the Waters; \*\*\*Strict Fast Day\*\*\*

SUN, 1/6– Epiphany: Blessing of the Waters; Brunch in Chirgotis Social Hall; Cross Throwing Ceremony at Magic Island

✦ **Vasilopita Celebration**– Sunday, January 13, 2019

✦ **Parish Council Oath of Office & Election of Officers**– Sunday, January 13, 2019, pending Ratification from the Metropolis.

✦ **FD Fundraiser Glendi for Dance Groups**– Saturday, January 26, 2019, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Dinner and Entertainment in Church Hall. For tickets, contact Dianna Graves or any dancer.