

## 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 12, 2014

Sunday after Theophany

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 521-7220      [www.ssconhelhi.goarch.org](http://www.ssconhelhi.goarch.org)  
Office: [saintsconstantine-helenhon@mail.goarch.org](mailto:saintsconstantine-helenhon@mail.goarch.org)  
Fr. Alexander Leong: [fralexanderleong@yahoo.com](mailto:fralexanderleong@yahoo.com)

January 12, 2014

Sunday after Theophany

Commemoration of: Tatiana the Martyr of Rome; 8 Monk-Martyrs of Nicaea

---

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*To fethron* (Hymn of the Day) Tone 4

*En Iorthani* (Hymn of Theophany) Tone 1  
*J*

*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

*Epefanis simeron* Tone 3  
*To*

Epistle Reading Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Gospel Reading Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in

Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

This Week

Sun 1/12– Vasilopita Celebration

Fri 1/17– St. Anthony: Orthros 8:30 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Sat 1/18– Bible Study Fellowship 4 p.m., Byzantine Chant 5 p.m., Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

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.