

# Theophania



**Sixth of January every year!**



# Theophania

- Theophania is the third and last holiday of the Dodecameron (twelve days of Christmas), the day of Catharsis of Nature and purification of people's souls. Theophania was first established in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D.



# Meaning of the word Theophania

- Theophania can also be known as epiphany or if you are from Cyprus, Fota (feast of light).
- The meaning of Theophania is the manifestation of God. Theo meaning God and phania meaning manifestation.
- This basically means that God showed himself.



# Church service

- Has any one been to an orthodox service and enjoyed the glorious voices of both the priest and the choir but not understood all the service?
- What you about to hear is the evangelion (gospel) that is read on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January at Greek orthodox churches.





# Bible studies

- **Mathew-chapter 3 v.13-17**

- <sup>13</sup> Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to the Jordan unto John, to be baptised of him.
- <sup>14</sup> But John forbad him tried to, saying, “I have need to be baptised of thee, and comest thou to me?”



# Continued

- <sup>15</sup>And Jesus answering said unto him, “suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he suffered him.



# Continued

- <sup>16</sup> And Jesus, when he was baptised, when up straight way out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were open unto him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him;



# Continued

- <sup>17</sup> And lo a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”



# Questions

- Why did we just read these five verses?
- What did we learn from these?
- Why were these important?





# Re-cap

- Theophania is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (age 30). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptised by John, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove.
- This Feast is called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine "those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death" and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace. (hence why baptism is important)



# Celebrations

- Theophania, or 'The Blessing of the Waters', is held every year on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- On this day children roam from house to house singing a song. Similar to when we sing carols.



# Celebrations

*Lyrics in English:*

*Today is the lights and the enlightenment  
The happiness is big and the sanctification  
Down the Jordan River*

*Sits our Lady the Blessed Virgin Mary  
She carries an organ, a candle she holds  
And pleads with St. John .*

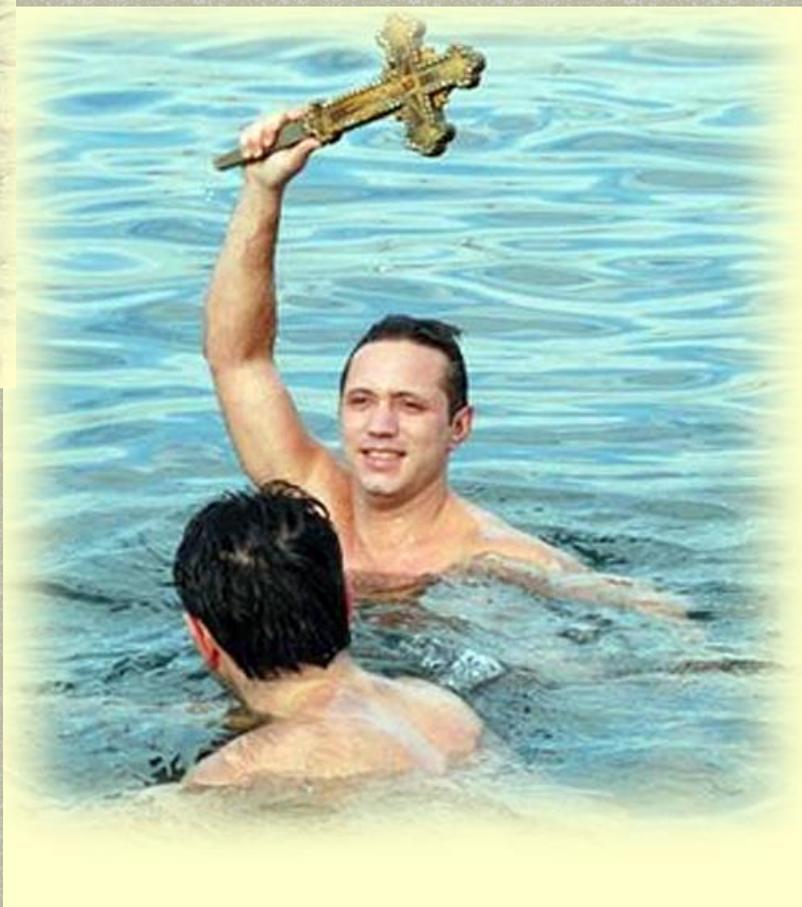
*St. John lord and Baptist  
Baptize this divine child of mine  
I shall ascend to the heavens  
To gather roses and incense*

*Good day, good day  
Good day to you master and the missus.*



# Celebrations

- There is usually a procession that starts from the church and leads to the nearest body of water.





## Your Task

Answer these questions using full sentences.

- What is Theophania?
- What does it relate to?
- When is it?
- Why is it important that we celebrate Theophania?
- Why is it important; what happened on this day- BE VERY DETAILED?
- What are the celebrations and traditions on this day?
- **USE YOUR NOTES TO ANSWER THESE QUESTION**