November 8, 2026

Great Martyr Demetrius
What Is a Martyr?

Saint Sergius School · SSS-L0008



Opening Questions

What does courage mean?

Is courage always the same as fighting?

How can someone tell the truth with kindness?

What gives Christians hope when life is difficult?

Who Was St. Demetrius?

St. Demetrius lived in Thessalonica when Christians faced persecution.

He openly confessed Jesus Christ, even when it brought imprisonment.

THESSALONICA — his city

CONFESSION — professing faith



The Church honours him as a Great Martyr.

The Lesson in Four Movements

CONFESSED — faithful to Christ

ENCOURAGED — strengthened Nestor

WITNESSED — unto martyrdom

HOPED — in the Resurrection

CONFESSED → ENCOURAGED → WITNESSED → HOPED

CONFESSED — Courage in Christ

St. Demetrius would not deny his faith, though Christians were persecuted.

THESSALONICA

PUBLIC CONFESSION

IMPRISONMENT

STEADFAST FAITH

Christian courage begins with love for Christ and trust in Him.

ENCOURAGED — St. Nestor

CHURCH TRADITION

St. Nestor sought St. Demetrius's blessing.

THE ARENA

He faced Lyaeus, a powerful fighter.

FAITHFUL WITNESS

The Church remembers their courage.

The Church remembers their courage with reverence. We follow Christ through love, truth and safe choices.

St. Nestor and Lyaeus — The Traditional Account

SAINT NESTOR — a young Christian who asked Demetrius for a blessing

LYAEUS — the powerful fighter he confronted

AFTERMATH — both Nestor and Demetrius suffered martyrdom

MEANING — their faithfulness points toward Christ, not violence

What Does Martyr Mean?

WITNESS

FAITHFULNESS

COURAGE

FORGIVENESS

LOVE

HOPE

A martyr witnesses to Christ, even through suffering or death.

St. Stephen — The First Martyr

Acts 6–7 tells of St. Stephen's courageous witness to Christ.

He prayed for those who harmed him.

His love shows that Christian courage does not mean revenge.



ST. STEPHEN — COURAGE AND FORGIVENESS

He spoke truthfully about Christ.

He prayed for his persecutors instead of taking revenge.

His witness teaches faith, love, and forgiveness together.

Why Do the Martyrs Have Hope?

CHRIST IS RISEN
He conquered death.

↓

MARTYRS TRUSTED HIM
Not worldly strength.

↓

DEATH IS NOT THE END
Christ has the victory.



Scripture — Witness and Hope

MATTHEW 10:32	**ACTS 6–7**	**ROMANS 8:35–39**
CONFESS CHRIST	**FORGIVE OTHERS**	**TRUST HIS LOVE**

Scripture joins faithful confession, forgiveness, and hope in the Risen Christ.

Christian courage grows from love for Christ.

Courageous Witness

Tell the truth, help others safely, pray and respond with kindness. Do not seek danger to prove faith.

What is one kind and courageous action you can take this week?

Key Vocabulary

Martyr
a faithful witness to Christ

Witness
one who tells or shows the truth

Confession

Great Martyr

Persecution
mistreatment because of faith

Resurrection
Christ's victory over death

Activity — Courageous Witness

TRUTH

What if you accidentally break something?

HELPING

How can you safely help someone bullied?

KINDNESS

What if someone mocks you for praying?

MY RESPONSE

Write or draw one courageous, loving action.

TRUTH | HELP | KINDNESS | SAFETY

Today We Learned

St. Demetrius and St. Stephen remind us that Christian courage is faithful witness rooted in Christ's Resurrection.

CONFESS | WITNESS | FORGIVE | HOPE

A martyr is a witness to Christ.

St. Stephen forgave those who harmed him.

Because Christ is risen, death does not have the final victory.