

Great-Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh Streaming

Saint Demetrios, born to secret Christian parents in pagan Thessaloniki, was the son of a Roman proconsul and was baptized in a hidden chapel within his father's home. After his father's death, Emperor Galerius Maximian (r. 305) appointed Demetrios to the same post, charging him to suppress Christianity. Instead, Demetrios openly confessed Christ, preached the Gospel, and turned many from idols. Saint Simeon Metaphrastes calls him "a second Apostle Paul" to Thessaloniki, the city first illumined by Paul's preaching.



When the emperor learned that his governor had become a missionary, he raged and marched on the city. Demetrios distributed his wealth to the poor, saying, "Let us seek heavenly riches," and prepared for martyrdom. Imprisoned, he blessed his disciple Nestor, who then defeated the emperor's pagan champion Lyaeos. In fury Maximian executed Nestor and ordered soldiers to pierce Demetrios with spears in his cell on October 26, 306. His servant Lupus used the saint's blood-stained cloak and ring to work miracles before being martyred himself.

Christians secretly buried the body, and under Saint Constantine a church rose over his tomb. When a larger basilica was built a century later, his incorrupt relics were discovered, exuding fragrant myrrh—hence the title Myrrh-Gusher. Attempts to remove his relics to Constantinople failed, for the saint wished to remain in Thessaloniki.

Demetrios became beloved throughout the Christian world, especially among the Slavs and in Rus', where princes, warriors, and monasteries bore his name. Icons portray him as a soldier-martyr praying, "Lord, do not let the city or the people perish; if they are saved, I shall be saved with them." His memory was joined to that of Saint Demetrios of the Don, the Russian prince who triumphed at Kulikovo Field in 1380. The Church keeps the Demetrios Memorial Saturday to honor all who fell defending faith and fatherland.

Saint Demetrios remains a protector of the young and a powerful intercessor for purity and courage in Christ.

Text (edited) & Icon from oca.org



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October 26, 2025

GREAT-MARTYR DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH STREAMING

COMMEMORATIONS:

6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE, THE HOLY GREAT
MARTYR DEMETRIUS THE MYRRH-STREAMER,
COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE
IN CONSTANTINOPLE (740), EATA OF HEXHAM

Tone 3 - Eothinon 9

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:19-31

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke: 8:26-39

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 3 - Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH-STREAMING - Tone 3 - A great champion hath the whole world found thee to be when in grave perils; for thou dost put to flight the heathen, O victorious one. As thou didst humble Lyaeus' arrogance and gavest boldness to Nestor in the stadium, thus, O holy Great Martyr Demetrios, do thou entreat Christ God that we be granted Great Mercy.

TODAY:

ORTHROS 8:15 a.m.

Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9 a.m.

Divine LITURGY 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 p.m.

Parish Annual Meeting, 1:00 p.m.

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Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

