

Saint Damaris, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2025 Alexandra Houck.
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The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Do not be afraid!

Is there something you are afraid about? You might not know that the thing people are most afraid about is...spiders! Yes, more people are afraid of spiders than any other thing. Usually, people are afraid of something that is stronger than they are, or more powerful. Some spiders might have a strong poison, and you can't do much about it!



In the Gospel reading today, Jesus tells His followers, "Do not be afraid!" He wasn't talking about spiders, of course. But His disciples might have been afraid when they found out how powerful the Lord really was!

Saint Peter was cleaning his fishing nets when Jesus told him to go back out into the lake to try again. "We have worked all night and caught nothing, but at your word, I will let down the net," Peter answered Him. When he did what Jesus had told him, Peter caught so many fish that his boat was starting to sink! Then he and his friends knew that Jesus had done a miracle. They knew He was strong. They knew He was powerful.

We know that God is strong and powerful too. But let's remember, God tells us too, "Do not be afraid!" We can still come close to God. We can still talk to Him in prayer. We can know more about Him when we read the Bible. Do not be afraid of our strong, powerful, but *loving* God!

WORD SEARCH

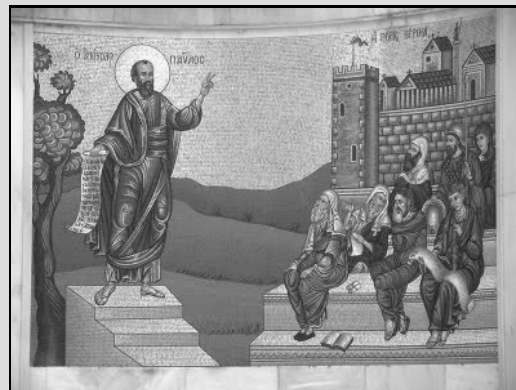
Can you find these words in the jumble?

Afraid
Athens
Brave
Comfort
Damaris
Dionysios
Preach
Saint
Truth

T	R	S	D	V	E	L	W	A	U	Q	A	X	J	P
M	T	N	N	J	Y	F	Z	T	F	L	A	N	B	R
C	B	E	S	A	Q	O	E	W	N	R	D	A	T	E
Z	K	H	U	B	P	W	S	O	M	I	A	P	B	A
T	X	T	E	R	G	C	K	R	V	O	A	I	V	C
Z	W	A	D	I	O	N	Y	S	I	O	S	S	D	H
L	X	L	G	M	H	T	U	R	T	X	D	G	H	Y
X	F	B	F	D	H	O	J	N	O	O	Y	M	H	I
H	U	O	T	S	Y	U	P	V	Y	D	B	Z	L	N
Z	R	S	D	J	E	Q	Y	X	S	H	V	I	V	U
T	V	R	W	V	T	U	I	E	D	G	X	T	N	F
S	I	R	A	M	A	D	J	B	I	I	O	X	V	P
O	N	R	X	X	G	Z	V	I	U	Q	W	F	P	A
T	B	S	H	I	P	Z	T	D	F	M	G	Y	F	A
H	S	H	X	T	S	Y	O	X	C	A	Y	X	G	C

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a little icon that shows Saint Paul preaching in Athens. Do you see the people listening to him? One of them is Saint Dionysios the Areopogite. In the very back, can you see Saint Damaris?



SAINT DAMARIS LISTENING TO SAINT PAUL

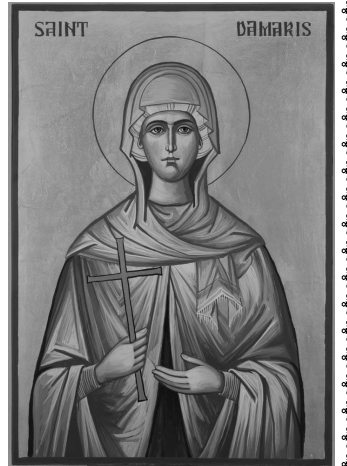
Have you ever been the very first

to do something? Maybe you were the first to try a weird food, or wear a different kind of clothes, or play a new game. When you're the first to do something, you take a risk. You're not just following others. You're making a choice yourself.

This week we celebrate a saint who had the chance to listen to Saint Paul preach in the great city of Athens, Greece. The Bible tells us that lots of people heard Saint Paul, but not everybody accepted his words. Not everybody believed what he said about Jesus Christ.

Saint Damaris listened to Saint Paul and believed! She was the first woman in Athens to become a Christian. We don't know a lot about Saint Damaris, but she must have been an important woman because the Bible mentions her name, along with Saint Dionysios. Many scholars think that after she became a Christian, she taught other women about Christ too. So, in a way, she was really an apostle too because she spread the good news. In Athens, she was one of the first to follow Christ. Along with her work, Athens became a city where almost everybody believed!

Saint Damaris teaches us to be brave about what we know and believe! Being a Christian isn't something we do just to follow other people. Being a Christian means following Christ Himself! Saint Damaris was a brave woman who did just that.



We celebrate St. Damaris Friday, October 3rd (OC: October 16th).