



**Our Righteous Mother Xenia of Saint Petersburg,
The Fool for Christ's sake
Whom the Holy Church celebrates on January 24.**

Our righteous Mother Xenia of St. Petersburg was born about the year 1730. She was married to a Colonel named Andrew; when she was twenty-six years old her husband died suddenly, having been drinking with his friends. Left a childless widow, Xenia gave away all that she had and vanished from St. Petersburg for eight years; it is believed that she spent this time in a hermitage, learning the spiritual life. When she returned to Saint Petersburg, she wore her husband's military clothing, and would answer only to the name Andrew, that is, the name of her late husband. She took up the life of a homeless wanderer, and was abused by many as insane; she bore this with great patience, crucifying the carnal mind through the mockery she endured, and praying for her husband's soul. She was given great gifts of prayer and prophecy, and often foretold things to come; in 1796 she foretold the death of Empress Catherine II. Having lived forty-five years after her husband's death, she reposed in peace at the age of seventy one, about the year 1800. Her grave became such a source of miracles, and so many came to take soil from it as a blessing, that it was often necessary to replace the soil; when a stone slab was placed over her grave, this

too disappeared over time, piece by piece. Saint Xenia is especially invoked for help in finding employment, lodging, or a spouse.

Saint Xenia was glorified by Saint Philaret Metropolitan of New York the New Confessor in 1978.

*Dismissal Hymn of Blessed Xenia of Petersburg
Plagal of Fourth Tone*

IN thee, O wandering stranger, Christ the Lord hath given us an ardent intercessor for our kind. For having received in thy life sufferings and grief and served God and men with love, thou didst acquire great boldness. Wherefore, we fervently hasten to thee in temptations and grief, crying out from the depths of our hearts: Put not our hope to shame, O Blessed Xenia.

*Kontakion of Blessed Xenia of Saint Petersburg.
Third tone*

HAVING been a wandering stranger on earth, sighing for the heavenly homeland, thou wast known as a fool by the senseless and unbelieving, but as most wise and holy by the faithful, and wast crowned by God with glory and honour O Xenia, manly-minded and divinely wise. Wherefore we cry to thee: Rejoice, for after earthly wandering thou hast come to dwell in the Father's house.

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SYNAXARION

On the twenty-fourth of this month we commemorate our righteous Mother, Blessed Xenia, the Fool for Christ's sake and Wonderworker of Saint Petersburg.

Verses

They that are at a loss invoke Blessed Xenia,
Who having lost all things, won Christ as her bridegroom.

On the twenty-fourth Xenia was in Heaven.

EXAPOSTILARION

Second Tone. Hearken, ye women.

O MODEST Xenia, thou didst long * for Heaven's hospitality * and madest thyself a stranger * to riches, kindred and country * in thy great love of godliness; * and having taken up thy cross, * thou gladly rankest after Christ, * the stranger born of a Virgin * to save all men, O God-bearer.

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

AFTER thy beloved husband's death, desiring to follow Christ in poverty, thou didst scatter all thy riches; and made rich in grace by thy heavenly Bridegroom, thou didst hide thy wealth in grace in the rags of thy feigned foolishness, O venerable Mother Xenia. Wherefore, enduring mockery and hunger, thou didst attain to even greater heights of holiness, becoming a universal treasury of blessings for all, made perfect in the love of God; and now as thou standest in boldness before the Trinity on high, and goest about among us invisibly on earth, thou grantest peace, mercy, and salvation to all who keep thy festival with faith and love.



Chapel over Saint Xenia's Grave



Saint Xenia the Fool for the Sake of Christ
Of Saint Petersburg



Church of the Smolensk Icon
of the Mother of God

While this Church was being built, Saint Xenia used to bring bricks up to the top of the scaffolding at night and place them near where the bricklayers were to work the next day. When the workers came in the next day they would see the bricks.

Once someone asked, “Who brought them up here?”

The reply was “Oh, it was that crazy Xenia.”

Saint Xenia save us.