



## **Akathist to Saint Xenia of St. Petersburg**



# **Akathist to Saint Xenia of St. Petersburg**

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. Glory to Thee O God. Glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere and fills all things. Treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity. And, save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty , Holy Immortal, have mercy on us **(3)**.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy **(3)**.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### **KONTAKION I**

**Choir/Faithful:** Blessed Mother **Xenia**, / Holy Fool for the **sake** of Christ, / you elected to undergo the struggle of patience and the suffering of **affliction**. / We therefore honor your sacred memory with **hymns** of praise. / Help us against our enemies, visible and **invisible**, / that we may **cry** to you: // Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful **intercessor** for our souls.

### **IKOS I**

**Priest:** After the death of your husband, blessed mother, you sought the life of the angels and rejected the beauty of this world and all that is in it — the desire of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Instead, you acquired the understanding of Christ our Savior. We therefore appeal to your loving-kindness, that you will hear these praises which we now offer you.

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you were a peer of Saint Andrew, the Holy **Fool** for Christ.

Rejoice, for you renounced your own name, referring to **yourself** as dead.

Rejoice, for you assumed foolishness and took the name of your departed **husband**, Andrei.

Rejoice, for you called yourself by a man's name, renouncing pride and **vanity**.

Rejoice, for you accepted voluntary poverty for the **sake** of Christ.

Rejoice, for you distributed all your substance to good people and **to** the poor.

Rejoice, for you comfort all those who turn to **you** in prayer.

Rejoice, for you quickly help in times of **trouble** and despair.

Rejoice, for your holy foolishness has taught us to reject the vain **wisdom** of this age.

Rejoice, for you were full of wisdom **transcending** this world.

Rejoice, for you preferred mockery and ridicule to earthly **glory**.

Rejoice, for you have been **glorified** by God.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

## KONTAKION II

**Priest:** Perceiving your way of life as strange, for you spurned the comforts of home and all worldly riches, O blessed mother, your kinsmen thought you were deranged. Yet, the people of St. Petersburg, seeing your humility, lack of acquisitiveness, and voluntary poverty, sang to God: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS II

**Priest:** Blessed Xenia, you hid the understanding given to you by God under an apparent mindlessness. Amid the vanity of a great city you lived like a desert-dweller, unceasingly offering your prayers to God. Marveling at your way of life, we cry out to you in praise:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you took upon your shoulders the heavy cross of foolishness which God had **given** to you.

Rejoice, for you bore it without **hesitation**.

Rejoice, for you hid the radiance of grace under an assumed **insanity**.

Rejoice, for your foolishness was **most** wise.

Rejoice, for you acquired the gift of clairvoyance through extreme humility and **feats** of prayer.

Rejoice, for you showed forth this gift for the benefit and salvation of those who suffer and **struggle**.

Rejoice, for you beheld the sufferings of the people clairvoyantly, as **from** afar.

Rejoice, for your prayers brought relief to those in **pain** and distress.

Rejoice, for you prophesied to the good woman the **birth** of a son.

Rejoice, for you implored God that He grant the **woman** a child.

Rejoice, for you hurry to entreat the Lord in behalf of your **neighbors**.

Rejoice, for you have taught all the faithful to flee to **God** in prayer.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

### **KONTAKION III**

**Priest:** By the power given to you by God from on high, you manfully endured burning heat and bitter cold, crucifying the flesh with its passions and lusts. Mercifully enlightened by the Holy Spirit, you gratefully cried out unceasingly to God: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **IKOS III**

**Priest:** With the sky as your roof and the earth as your bed, Blessed Xenia, you spurned the pleasures of the flesh for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Beholding the holiness of your manner of life, we humbly cry out to you with compunction:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you gave your earthly home to the people.

Rejoice, for you sought and received the shelter of **Heaven**.

Rejoice, for you possessed nothing that was earthly, but enriched all **spiritually**.

Rejoice, for you became a treasure house of the gifts of **Heaven**.

Rejoice, for you counted every material thing as **nothing**.

Rejoice, for you were thereby freed from **every** loss.

Rejoice, for you endured hunger and cold in ragged **clothing**.

Rejoice, for you have been adorned with the fruits of **piety**.

Rejoice, by your afflictions you teach the people **endurance**.

Rejoice, by your struggles you show the world **patience**.

Rejoice, our compassionate deliverer from the **turmoil** of this world.

Rejoice, our fervent advocate before the Throne of the **Most High**.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

#### **KONTAKION IV**

**Priest:** The tempest of life which assailed St. Petersburg, you weathered by meekness and guilelessness, O blessed mother. You thereby acquired dispassion toward this corrupt world and thus sang to God: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

#### **IKOS IV**

**Priest:** Hearing of your endurance of a multitude of afflictions for the sake of Christ, and that you comfort the sorrowful, strengthen the weak, and guide the lost to walk on the straight path — the suffering people hasten to seek your aid and to sing to you in this manner:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you loved the path of Christ with **all** your heart.

Rejoice, for you gladly bore the **Cross** of Christ.

Rejoice, for you endured every offense hurled at you by the world, the flesh and the **devil**.

Rejoice, for you thus emulated the ascetics of the **desert**.

Rejoice, for you were filled to overflowing with the **gifts** of God.

Rejoice, for you freely bestow spiritual gifts upon **those** in need.

Rejoice, for you displayed love for your **neighbors**.

Rejoice, for you provided consolation for the **suffering**.

Rejoice, for you shed unceasing tears of **repentance**.

Rejoice, for you wipe away the tears of those who **sorrow**.

Rejoice, for you sought neither comfort nor **warmth** for yourself.

Rejoice, for you were wondrously warmed by the grace of the Holy **Spirit**.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

### **KONTAKION V**

**Priest:** Your life of holiness, Blessed Xenia, illumined the sky of St. Petersburg, like a divinely guided star. To all those perishing in the madness of sin you showed the path of salvation, calling them to repentance that they might cry acceptably to God: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **IKOS V**

**Priest:** Seeing your feats of prayer and your endurance of heat and cold, pious folk sought to alleviate your hardship by offering you clothing and food. You then distributed all these things to



the poor, Blessed Xenia, desiring to maintain your spiritual struggle. Full of wonder at your voluntary poverty, we cry out to you thus:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you willingly endured burning heat and freezing cold for the **sake** of Christ.

Rejoice, for you were warmed by the indwelling of the Holy **Spirit**.

Rejoice, for you remained **continually** in prayer.

Rejoice, for you never tire of interceding for **mankind**.

Rejoice, for in all-night vigils you prayed for the city of St. **Petersburg**.

Rejoice, for many times you preserved it from the **wrath** of God.

Rejoice, for every day of the year you prayed at **night** in a field.

Rejoice, for you warmed the cold earth with your **fervent** tears.

Rejoice, for in poverty of spirit you tasted the sweetness of **Paradise**.

Rejoice, for in this sweetness you left behind all **earthly** things.

Rejoice, for you abide **wholly** in God.

Rejoice, for you delight in the bridal banquet of your **Master**.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful **intercessor** for our souls.

## **KONTAKION VI**

**Priest:** All who have been delivered by you from different ailments, misfortunes and sorrows — the rich and the poor, the old and the young — proclaim the holiness of your life, O Holy Fool for Christ. In like manner, we glorify you and cry out to God in gratitude: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS VI

**Priest:** The glory of your struggles shone forth, holy mother, when at night you secretly carried stones for those who were constructing the Church of the Smolensk Icon of the Mother of God, easing the tasks of the builders. Mindful of this, we sinners reverently cry out to you such things as these:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, blessed and righteous model of feats of **piety**.

Rejoice, for you teach us to perform virtuous deeds in **secret**.

Rejoice, devoted caretaker of the **holiness** of the Church.

Rejoice, for you aided those who were building the **Church** of God.

Rejoice, zealous laborer for the Lord of the **vineyard**.

Rejoice, for you ease our labors on the path of **salvation**.

Rejoice, heavenly aid of the city of St. **Petersburg**.

Rejoice, for you sanctified your city by your painful **footsteps**.

Rejoice, tranquility of those who have recourse to **you** in prayer.

Rejoice, for you comfort all the **sorrowful**.

Rejoice, Holy Fool who continually calls on the **Name** of the Lord.

Rejoice, for you thereby rest in Christ your **Master**.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful **intercessor** for our souls.

## KONTAKION VII

**Priest:** Desiring to deliver from sorrow the mourning physician who had buried his wife, you commanded a certain maiden to hasten to Okhta. She was to take him as her husband and console him. This they did as you said, singing to God in joy: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS VII

**Priest:** A new wonder you revealed in your prayer, blessed mother, when you said to a pious woman, “Take a five-kopek piece, and it will go out,” thus prophesying that a fire would strike her house. At your supplication, the flame of the fire was extinguished. Amazed by your holiness, we cry out praises to you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you unceasingly **mourned** over your sins.

Rejoice, for you bore suffering in **body** and soul.

Rejoice, for you extinguish the sorrows of the **people**.

Rejoice, for you show forth boldness before God for the **suffering**.

Rejoice, virtuous lamp burning brightly in **prayer** to God.

Rejoice, strong intercessor amid misfortunes and **perils**.

Rejoice, for you save from perdition those beset by the **passions**.

Rejoice, for you crucified your flesh with constant mortification.

Rejoice, for you turn pious virgins away from marriage with **unbelievers**.

Rejoice, for you deliver from despair those who have been wounded by a **wicked** curse.

Rejoice, righteous defender of those **falsely** accused.

Rejoice, for your defender is the **Most** High.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

## KONTAKION VIII

**Priest:** As a homeless wanderer you trod the path of your life in the capital city of Russia, bearing afflictions and reproaches with great patience. Now, abiding in the heavenly Jerusalem, with joy you sing to God: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **IKOS VIII**

**Priest:** You were all things to all people, O Blessed Xenia — comfort for the sorrowful, protection and defense for the weak, joy for the grieving, clothing for the poor, and healing for the sick. Let us then cry to you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, through holy foolishness you ascended to the **Kingdom**.

Rejoice, through homelessness you acquired a **mansion** on high.

Rejoice, intercessor in Heaven for us mortals **suffering** on earth.

Rejoice, dependable provider of our **every** need.

Rejoice, holy mother who shows us a model of **service** to God.

Rejoice, Holy Fool who endured much affliction and **grief** in this world.

Rejoice, defender of the tormented ones who **pray** to you.

Rejoice, protectress of the persecuted **and** oppressed.

Rejoice, for you rebuke those who abuse their **fellows**.

Rejoice, for you put to shame unbelievers and those who **babble**.

Rejoice, for you were clothed in rags and **tatters**.

Rejoice, for God has adorned you with the splendid raiment of **righteousness**.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

## **KONTAKION IX**

**Priest:** Blessed mother, you endured all illness, bodily poverty, hunger and thirst, and the reproach of iniquitous people who considered you to be insane. Yet, praying to the Lord, you continually cried out to Him: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS IX

**Priest:** Even the most eloquent orators are unable to understand how by your holy foolishness you reprov'd the madness of this world, and how by your weakness you put the mighty of this world to shame. They do not know the power and wisdom of God which are in you. Even we, who thereby receive your aid, can only sing to you such things as these:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, potent bearer of the Divine **Spirit**. Rejoice, along with the Apostle Paul you boasted in your **weakness**.

Rejoice, for you reprov'd the world by your feigned **foolishness**. Rejoice, for you spurn'd the glamour of this world for the sake of salvation and the **Kingdom**.

Rejoice, for you disdain'd the beautiful **things** of this earth. Rejoice, for you lov'd the good things of Heaven with **all** your heart.

Rejoice, for you were attentive to the inner **voice** of the Lord. Rejoice, for you call us to the narrow path of **salvation**.

Rejoice, dread denouncer of **drunkenness** as a sin.

Rejoice, holy protectress of the Orthodox **family**.

Rejoice, for you were renowned for your **kindness** and love.

Rejoice, for in Christ you found comfort for your **sorrows**.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

## KONTAKION X

**Priest:** Yearning to save your soul, you crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. Utterly denying yourself, you carried your cross upon your shoulders and followed after Christ with all your heart, singing to Him: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## **IKOS X**

**Priest:** You are a firm rampart and an unassailable refuge for those who pray to you, Mother Xenia. We therefore implore you, by your supplications help us against our enemies visible and invisible, so that we may cry to you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you worked diligently in the **garden** of Christ.

Rejoice, for you move us to spiritual **labor**.

Rejoice, through steadfastness of faith you resisted the **devil's** snares.

Rejoice, through holy foolishness you discerned the wiles of the **enemy**.

Rejoice, for you bring the peace of God into the homes of **Christians**.

Rejoice, by heavenly confidence you impart blessings to good **children**.

Rejoice, for you extinguish the spirit of despair in the **hearts** of the oppressed.

Rejoice, by mystic supplication you relieve their **burdens**.

Rejoice, for you have shone forth the mercy of God upon the **afflicted** of the world.

Rejoice, by unceasing prayer you shed rays of Christian **love** upon all.

Rejoice, for you offered yourself to God like incense in a **censer**.

Rejoice, by the cross of asceticism you attained heavenly **wisdom**.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful inter**cessor** for our souls.

## KONTAKION XI

**Priest:** Those who have been saved from misfortune, affliction, sorrow, and every kind of danger offer you hymns of praise, holy mother, and together with the saints and angels we sing to God: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS XI

**Priest:** Your holy foolishness, O Blessed Xenia, has been shown to be a radiant light illuminating the people amid the darkness of this world. You have delivered those who have fallen into the mire of sin, and directed their path to the light of Christ. We therefore lovingly cry out to you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, by your manner of life you amazed the **angels**.

Rejoice, for while in the world, you lived **above** the world.

Rejoice, by your many labors you acquired **great** grace.

Rejoice, for your ways were those of an ascetic of the **wilderness**.

Rejoice, for you enlighten Christians with the **light** of God.

Rejoice, for you shone forth with the grace of God over the **darkness** of sin.

Rejoice, for you put to shame the spirits of **malice**.

Rejoice, for you set your hope on the **Almighty**.

Rejoice, for you were clad in the brilliant robe of **unwavering** faith.

Rejoice, for on the straight path of salvation you give a helping hand to the **desperate**.

Rejoice, for you strengthen those who are **weak** in faith.

Rejoice, for you were renowned for your **kindness** and love.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

## KONTAKION XII

**Priest:** You pour forth grace in abundance upon those who honor your memory and flee to your protection, O Blessed Xenia. Likewise, upon us who pray to you now, do also pour forth streams of healing from God, so that we may acceptably cry out to Him: Alleluia.

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

## IKOS XII

**Priest:** Hymning your many wonders, blessed mother, we praise you and entreat you with all our heart. Forsake not us sinners amid our grievous circumstances, but beseech the Lord of hosts that we fall not away from the True Faith. Rather, strengthened in it by your prayers, we gratefully cry out to you:

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you instruct us to crucify the flesh, together with the **passions** and lusts.

Rejoice, for you come to our aid amid every spiritual **battle**.

Rejoice, for you teach us to have sympathy for the **suffering**.

Rejoice, for you bear our infirmities with **all** your heart.

Rejoice, for you hear our supplications **day** and night.

Rejoice, for you ever mediate the salvation of your **people**.

Rejoice, for you protect those who honor your **memory**.

Rejoice, for you give joy to those who **hasten** to your tomb.

Rejoice, for you traveled the path of **tribulation**.

Rejoice, for you thereby obtained everlasting **salvation**.

Rejoice, for your light has shone **forth** before all.

Rejoice, for you dispel the darkness of sin, together with **confusion** and doubt.



Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

### KONTAKION XIII

Holy and blessed Mother Xenia, as you bore a heavy cross during your lifetime, accept from us sinners this entreaty which we offer you. By your supplications, protect us from the assaults of the spirits of darkness and from all who plot evils against us. Beseech our most compassionate God to grant us power and might, so that we may bear our own crosses. Let us follow Christ our Lord, and go forth singing with you to Him:

**Choir/Faithful:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*This kontakion is recited thrice; whereupon Ikos I and Kontakion I are repeated.*

### IKOS I

**Priest:** After the death of your husband, blessed mother, you sought the life of the angels and rejected the beauty of this world and all that is in it — the desire of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Instead, you acquired the understanding of Christ our Savior. We therefore appeal to your loving-kindness, that you will hear these praises which we now offer you.

**Choir/Faithful:** Rejoice, for you were a peer of Saint Andrew, the Holy **Fool** for Christ.

Rejoice, for you renounced your own name, referring to yourself as dead.

Rejoice, for you assumed foolishness and took the name of your departed **husband**, Andrei.

Rejoice, for you called yourself by a man's name, renouncing pride and **vanity**.

Rejoice, for you accepted voluntary poverty for the **sake** of

Christ.

Rejoice, for you distributed all your substance to good people and **to** the poor.

Rejoice, for you comfort all those who turn to **you** in prayer.

Rejoice, for you quickly help in times of **trouble** and despair.

Rejoice, for your holy foolishness has taught us to reject the vain **wisdom** of this age.

Rejoice, for you were full of wisdom transcending this world.

Rejoice, for you preferred mockery and ridicule to earthly **glory**.

Rejoice, for you have been **glorified** by God.

Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

## **KONTAKION I**

**Choir/Faithful:** Blessed Mother **Xenia**, / Holy Fool for the **sake** of Christ, / you elected to undergo the struggle of patience and the suffering of affliction. / We therefore honor your sacred memory with **hymns** of praise. / Help us against our enemies, visible and invisible, / that we may **cry** to you: // Rejoice, Blessed **Xenia**, faithful intercessor for our souls.

**Priest:** Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Blessed **Xenia** of St. Petersburg.

**Choir/Faithful:** Blessed **Xenia** of St. **Petersburg** pray to **God** for us.

## **Prayer to Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg**

**Priest:** Blessed **Xenia**, our patient and wise mother, you had no home or wealth in this world for you transcended all vanity and acquired the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. You gave everything, materially and spiritually, to the poor. Since we are

poor in every way, we call on you to direct us to the Lord Jesus Christ Who blessed your ascetic path with abundant wonders. You were regarded a homeless fool by the world, but you were a meek helper to the unfortunate and a builder of the Holy Church. Blessed mother, we implore your sympathy for our feeble resolve and our bitter troubles, for our daily tasks and our family relationships, and for our disabilities and our frailties. Have compassion upon us and spare us from sinister temptation and evil gloom. We request your kindness, and we thank you for your intercession.

**Choir/Faithful:** Amen.

### **The Litany**

**Priest:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, His (*Grace /Eminence*), (*Arch*) Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for the president of our country, for all civil authorities and for our armed forces everywhere.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Again we pray for mercy, life peace, health, salvation

and visitation for the servants of God \_\_\_\_\_, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** Furthermore, we pray for the people here present, awaiting from Thee great and bountiful mercies for all the brethren and for all Christians.

**Choir/Faithful:** Lord have mercy (3)

**Priest:** For Thou art a merciful God, and loves mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir/Faithful:** Amen.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

**Choir/Faithful:** More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim! Without defilement you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos we magnify you.

**Priest:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee !

**Choir/Faithful:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Lord have mercy (3). Father bless.

**Priest:** [pronounces the dismissal and faithful venerate the

Cross]

*Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg pray to God for us!*

*Glory Be To God For All Things!*