



■ St. Xenia of St. Petersburg (January 24)

## A Miracle of St. Xenia in Chechnya

### An Unexpected Visit

**V**ictor, a young man from St. Petersburg, served as a soldier in the Russian army during the war in Chechnya. His family and friends prayed fervently to God that he return safely home.



From her great anxiety, his mother became a shadow of her former self. She went daily to the tomb of St. Xenia to ask for her to intercede to God on behalf of her son.

A year had passed at the front when, one day, Victor received an unexpected visit: his mother had come to Grozny, thousands of kilometers from their home!

The commander of the unit gave the young soldier leave to remain with his mother that day. They spent the day walking through the nearby forest, recalling the past and trying to encourage each other. It was difficult for them to part that evening.



When Victor returned to his unit, he was horrified to learn that his detachment had been sent on a reconnaissance mission and that everyone had been killed. He was overwhelmed by the death of his fellow

soldiers, but gave glory to God for sending his mother, thanks to whom he was still alive.

Time passed and Victor returned to St. Petersburg safe and sound. At home, he reminded his mother of the terrible episode from which he had miraculously escaped.

“Mother, if you hadn’t come then, we wouldn’t be sitting here together now.”

“When?” his mother asked in perplexity.

“Remember, when my entire unit was destroyed.”

“What are you saying, my son?” asked his mother in fright, thinking he had lost his senses. “I did not visit you...”

Mother and son were both astonished and bewildered.

After a few days, his mother realized, as in a revelation, that only Saint Xenia could have worked such a miracle. Through her boundless mercy and compassion, she had taken the form of a mother to save her son.



#### Sources:

1. Θαῦμα τῆς Ὁσίας Ξένηςστην Τσετσενία
2. ЧУДО ИЗ ЧУДЕС: КАК СВЯТАЯ КСЕНИЯ СПАСЛА СОЛДАТА В ОБРАЗЕ РОДНОЙ МАТЕРИ