

About St. Juliana the Merciful

The daughter of a devout and generous official in the Russian tsar's court, St. Juliana was orphaned at age 6 and raised by relatives. At 16, she was given in marriage to a nobleman. When her husband was at home, they would devote much of their time to praying together. When he was away in service to the tsar, she would devote whole nights to prayer and handiwork.

Since she was not free to give away her fortune as she desired, she earned money for almsgiving by the work of her hands, something unheard of for a lady of her rank. When anyone died in the village, she prayed for him at length, and if indigent she would pay for his funeral.

When two of the pious couple's sons died, Juliana asked her husband to let her enter a monastery. He refused because they had other young children who needed her care, but gave her permission to live a monastic life under his roof. From this time forward, she increased her fasts, spent her nights in prayer, and slept on the floor.

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(about St. Juliana continued)

From 1601 to 1603, Russia was struck for three years so severe that men ate human flesh in their desperation. St. Juliana sold all her livestock, gave away all the provisions in her barns, and freed all her serfs who wished to leave. Those who remained became her family, with whom she shared all she had. By her prayers, bitter and inedible plants became palatable so that they could be made into bread. The holy woman, despite almost killing privation, never complained, but seemed more cheerful than ever before.

St. Juliana reposed in peace at age 70 in 1604. At her death, a bright halo was seen above her head. Ten years later her body was found incorrupt, and her tomb filled with a fragrant myrrh.

She was venerated among the Russian people from that time forward, though it was not until 1988 that she was officially glorified by the Moscow Patriarchate.

St. Juliana the Merciful Pastoral Care Ministry



And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:8-10

*St. Stephen the Protomartyr Orthodox Church
1895 Lake Emma Road, Longwood, FL 32750*

Who We Are

The Pastoral Care Ministry consists of dedicated parishioners who wish to serve other parishioners in their time of need. The members bring to the ministry hearts of faith and compassion and a variety of professional and life pastoral experiences.

Our Mission

Extending the healing presence of Christ within the Parish and beyond through compassionate presence, support, consultation, and practical help - offering comfort and solace during times of need and transition in accordance with the teachings of the Orthodox faith.

TROPARION TO ST. JULIANA

By your righteous deeds you revealed to the world / An image of the perfect servant of the Lord. / By your fasting, vigil and prayers, / You were inspired in your evangelical life, / Feeding the hungry and caring for the poor, / Nursing the sick and strengthening the weak. / Now you stand at the right hand of the Master, Christ, / O holy Juliana, interceding for our souls.

Our Core Values

- Compassion
- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Faithfulness
- Mutuality
- Respect
- Active Listening
- Empathy
- Love
- Growth
- Competency
- Humility
- Teamwork

How To Contact Us

Email:
Ministry Lead Ann Marie Mecera (annmarie.mecera@gmail.com),
Fr. Daniel Hickman (frdaniel@ststephenoca.com), or
Deacon Mark Reudelhuber (dnmark@ststephenoca.com)

Join Our Ministry

No 'special' ability, talent, or skill is necessary to become involved. These are helpful, but essential is a heart of compassion and desire to be of help to others. Make your interest known by:

1. Emailing Ministry Lead at annmarie.mecera@gmail.com
2. Speaking to a Pastoral Care member or one of the pastoral staff
3. Attending the next Ministry Team meeting (published in the online calendar & bulletin)

Services Provided

- Home & Hospital Visitation
- Phone Visitations
- Prayers & Readings
- Loss & Grief Support
- New Parents Help
- Informal Spiritual Counseling
- Attentive, active listening
- Care givers Support
- Assist with questions of faith & belief
- Support in times of transition, rehabilitation & bereavement
- Pre-marital counseling
- Coordination of Practical Helps*
- Ministry of Presence
- Advocacy to pastoral staff

* Practical helps pertain to the doing of single occasion tasks, or errands, or service.