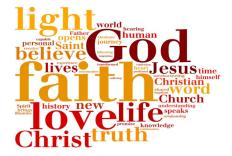
St. James-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

119-15 135th Avenue South Ozone Park, NY 11420

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am Visit us at SouthOzoneParkChurch.org

Greetings Church family:

I pray that this note reaches you well, especially as we emerge from these uncertain times!

I am delighted to share some good news with you—yes, in-person worship resumed at St. James-St. Matthew's on **Sunday, June 6.**

Congregations are advised to use common sense and intentional action with regard to preventing the spread of pathogens while gathering around the means of grace – word and sacraments. Therefore, under the guidance of the CDC, New York State and City Departments of Health, the ELCA and the Metropolitan New York Synod and knowing that these are simply plans – it is subject to change as the future unfolds:

First of all, **do not fear**, for God is with us! Our entire building will be cleaned thoroughly prior to each worship service. If you feel sick or in that **"vulnerable"** population (elderly, with preexisting medical conditions, asthmatic, etc.) please stay at home. You may call the Church office to inform us of your illness or need for Pastoral Care and prayers.

Secondly, in-person Worship Services will be slightly different as the Delta variant of the Coronavirus is still a threat to us. So, here's how:

- 1. A **face covering** (masks) must be worn anywhere on the Church's premises. If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided for you.
- 2. Your **body temperature** will be tested prior to entering the Church building. You will NOT be permitted into the building if your temperature is above the prescribed range.
- 3. You will complete a **Questionnaire** about yourself strictly for contact and tracing purposes.
- You will be ushered to an assigned/ numbered seat (6-feet apart) – please stay in your assigned seat throughout the Worship Service.

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Summer 2021 Edition

- 5. There will be **no congregating** in the back of the sanctuary, aisles, restrooms, or fellowship hall either before or after worship.
- 6. **Restrooms** will be limited to **One Person at a Time** – unless it's a family, parent/guardian and child.
- 7. The Worship Service will be centered around the **Word and Sacraments**:

a) Ushers are trained to ensure the safety of everyone in attendance at Worship. Please **listen** to them and **obey** their instructions.

b) You will **remain seated** throughout the Worship Service – which is adjusted to be under 30 minutes.

c) There will be **singing** and communal responses (e.g. The Lord be with you...And also with you and The Lord's Prayer) by the congregation.

d) The **passing of the peace** is an integral way that the family of God recognizes the presence of the peace of Christ in its midst. After making eye contact with your sibling in Christ, simply bow to the person with clasped hands and gesture.

e) The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion will be celebrated and distributed as follows: the elements (wafer and grape juice) are pre-packed and sealed and each communicant will partake of the meal at home after removing their face coverings.

f) There will be an **Offering Plate** at the back of the worship space for your envelopes.

8. Fellowship with light refreshments will resume on Sunday, August 1 following worship. Yes, it will be outdoors as your safety remains our top priority.



In the meantime, please do not let your guard down in these unprecedented times. It is our prayer that we let the old adage be our guide: **"Cleanliness is next to Godliness"** and allow the Holy Spirit of God to inspire us to care for ourselves and each other.

Now, having read and digested the above information, and should you have any questions, please contact the Church Office immediately. Stay safe!!



Email us at <u>stjstm@aol.com</u> if you do not get our weekly email blasts and "like us" on Facebook to get these updates when posted. Video recordings of **Sunday Worship** are posted on our website for your viewing: <u>www.SouthOzoneParkChurch.org</u>

We will stop our **Sunday Worship Services** (Zoom) online. A recording of the worship service will be posted on our Website and a YouTube link will go out by 6 PM each Sunday. For those without computers, tablets or smartphones, you can we will continue to have a DVD Combo of Worship Services mailed to you.



As we resumed in-person worship services, there is a need for Ushers, Lectors and Assistant Ministers.

Please contact Pastor Dabee or the Church Office and indicate your willingness to help make worship a welcoming experience for everyone in attendance. Thanks in advance !



We would like acknowledge everyone who has continued to contribute their offering towards the ministry of our Church. For those of you who are wondering how to make your contributions, you may:

1. Mail-in your Offering Envelopes to the Church see a "Special Offering" Envelope enclosed.

2. Drop off (please, Checks only) your Offering Envelopes in our mail slot on the side door or

3. Contribute via your PayPal Accounts... <u>https://</u> www.paypal.me/StJamesStMatthews

Meet Our Newly Baptized



Shiloh Steven Goseine-mother Samala Armogan



Jayden Matthew, Skyler Faith & Sierra Hope Singh with parents Jason and Shireese

Following each baptism, we prayed... "God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon

: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Amen"

At the end, the congregation greeted the newly baptized: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Contact us by Mail:

St. James—St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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