

**St. James'-St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**  
119-15 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
South Ozone Park, NY 11420

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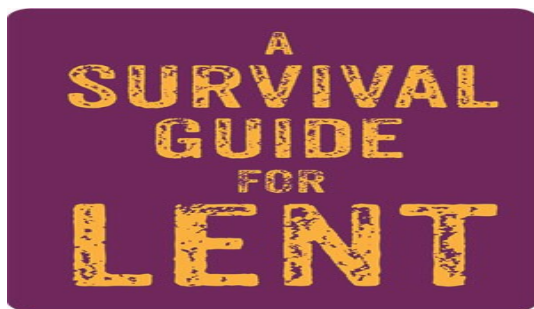
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**We Worship Every Sunday at 10:00 am**  
**Visit us at [SouthOzoneParkChurch.org](http://SouthOzoneParkChurch.org)**

## **The Messenger**

*March 2023 Edition*



It is believed that during the holi/holy days of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year, people are most stressed – an emotionally draining time of the year. The drama that comes with this season is often compounded when, for example, there is a loss of a loved one, a job, or any other major life transition.

Add to all our personal challenges the reality of global insecurity (i.e. the long-term effects of COVID-19), the stock market reactions, political mayhem, and volatile times, it may be a difficult time for many. So, how are we to cope and survive during this season—how are we getting through Lent?

As daylight hours increase, sooner than later, we would be basking in the sun. However, before we get there, we journey through a sacred time in our church year—Lent. The disciplines of Lent: Repentance, Fasting, Prayer and Acts of Charity—become our focus as individuals and as a community of believers.

My fellow sojourners, this season is not just for the soul or building up your lives spiritually. Lenten practices are a divine tool for transformation of your entire being.

It is my prayer that you embrace this Lenten journey and process. Enter into it and then find yourself exiting as a new person renewed and reprogrammed to be of service to God and our neighbors we have from God.

With Lenten blessings,  
Pastor Romeo Dabee



*Meet our Newest Members—March 5, 2023  
Veronica, Emmanuelasia & John (not in picture)*

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**



**Come Worship With Us!**

***Palm Sunday – April 2 at 10 AM***

***Maundy Thursday – April 6 at 7 PM***

***Good Friday – April 7 at 7 PM***

***Easter Camp for Children***

***Saturday April 8 at 10 AM***

***Easter Sunday – April 9 at 10 AM***

***Invite someone to worship with you !***



Part of our mission as a called-out community of believers known as the church is to bring the gospel (the good news of Jesus) to the world. St. James'-St. Matthew's has identified a need in our community for food, and a Food Ministry was launched.

In collaboration with Stacey's Pantry and Key Food and Stop and Shop Supermarkets, we launched this new ministry providing a monthly service —the next program is set for Thursday, **March 23rd from 5PM to 6PM**...and Thursday, April 27th, 2023, 5-6PM.

Yes, volunteers are always welcome! What this means is that there is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your lives of service to God and your neighbors. Please contact the Church office either by phone, 718-845-8770, or email [stjstm@aol.com](mailto:stjstm@aol.com) and let us know if you have any resources, be it time, talents, and treasures, to grow this new ministry.



### Lent 2023:

#### What Would I Be Giving Up or Taking On?

Lent is the season when we seek to draw closer to Jesus by taking on simple disciplines for the 40 days (not including Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Whether it involves adding something positive to your life or taking away something, the point is to strengthen you spiritually and increase your awareness of God in your life. What do you do?

Join us at **7 PM** every Wednesday in Lent:

**March 1 – Your Lenten Practices**

**March 8 – Disciplines and Practices**

**March 15 – Discipline and Disciple**

**March 22 – Exercise “No pain, no gain”**

**March 29 – Disciplines to habits**



It's that time of year—did someone say “Spring Cleaning?” Join us on **Saturday, April 1, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am** to make the building and surroundings of our Church a place of welcome. **All skill levels of workers wanted !**



**We need to restock our Food Pantry shelves and are seeking donations of non-perishable cans and packages of food items.**

**Our 2023 Lenten Service Project as a church will be to restock our shelves so we can continue this vital ministry to the community.**

**In 2022 we shared 390 bags of food items impacting 1,224 lives !**



**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

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**Contact us by Mail:**

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**Office Telephone: 718-845-8770**

**Office Email: [stjstm@aol.com](mailto:stjstm@aol.com)**

**Website: [www.SouthOzoneParkChurch.org](http://www.SouthOzoneParkChurch.org)**

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**Pastor Romeo Dabee**

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**Email: [PastorDabee@gmail.com](mailto:PastorDabee@gmail.com)**