

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

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Jamaica, NY  
Permit No. 553

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Greetings Church:

A few weeks ago, we gathered to welcome the newest member of our church family through the service of Holy Baptism. In the process, we also revisited our own act of baptism that made us children of God and members of the body of Christ.

Every time I preside at such a ceremony, I am struck by the magnitude and power of the vows we take—the responsibility we bear to those new to our faith. Here's an excerpt from that service:

*The Pastor addresses the parents/guardians  
of the candidates not able to answer  
for themselves*

Pastor: In Christian love, you have presented this child/these children for Holy Baptism. Do you promise to bring (*name of child*) faithfully to the services of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ?

*Parents/Guardians respond: I do.*



## The Messenger

Summer 2023 Edition

*The pastor addresses the Sponsor(s)  
of those about to be baptized*

Pastor: In Christian love, you have presented this child/these children for Holy Baptism. Do you promise to care faithfully for \_\_\_\_\_ and help them in every way as God gives you opportunity, that, they may bear witness of the faith we profess, and that living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ?

*Family and Sponsors respond: I do.*

Following the act of baptism (washing) and anointing with oil, a lit candle is presented to the baptized or to the sponsor of a young child with the Assisting Minister sharing the following:

Assisting Minister: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Amen**

Then comes the part of the service that involves everyone who witnessed the baptism—with a resounding welcome the following is said:

**All: 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.**

I pray that you remember your own baptismal vows and commitment to those who are a part of the family of God—members of the body of Christ known as St. James-St. Matthew's. Amen





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, Key Food, and Stop and Shop Supermarkets, we launched this new ministry providing a monthly service —the next program is set for Thursday, **August 24th from 5PM to 6PM**...and Thursday, September 28th from 5-6PM.

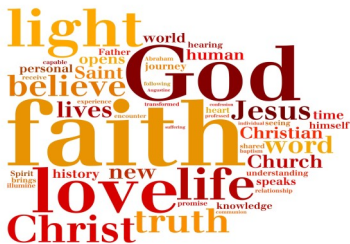


Yes, volunteers are always welcome! What this means is that there is a wonderful opportunity to enrich your lives of service to God and your neighbors. Please contact the Church office either by phone, 718-845-8770, or email [stjstm@aol.com](mailto:stjstm@aol.com) and let us know if you have any resources,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



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

*We share an average of 50 bags of food items impacting 150 lives every month !*



*...Still Wanted !*

We still need **Ushers, Lectors, and Assistant Ministers**. Please contact Pastor Dabee or the Church Office to indicate your willingness to help make worship at St. James-St. Matthew's Church a welcoming and meaningful experience for everyone in attendance. Thanks in advance!



*Church Picnic—Sunday, August 27*

*Invite someone to join you !*



Now is the time to join our Church family and immerse yourself in ministry. Anyone wishing to be baptized, baptize their child or children, or are longing in becoming a member of the Church are asked to contact Pastor or the Church office. The next **New Member Sunday** is **October 29 !**

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am**

+ + +

**Contact us by Mail:**

**St. James—St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

**119-15 135th Avenue**

**South Ozone Park, NY 11420**

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

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

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

+ + +

**Pastor Romeo Dabee**

**718-749-4953 (Pastoral Emergencies)**

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