

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

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Jamaica, NY  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

The Liturgical Church Year: Lent

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” There is a connection with the season of “lent” to the reality of the “lengthening” of the days coming out of the shorter days during winter.

The forty days for Christians represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. See - Mark 1:13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Matthew 4:2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. Luke 4:2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or take on something, e.g. volunteering and giving of themselves for others.

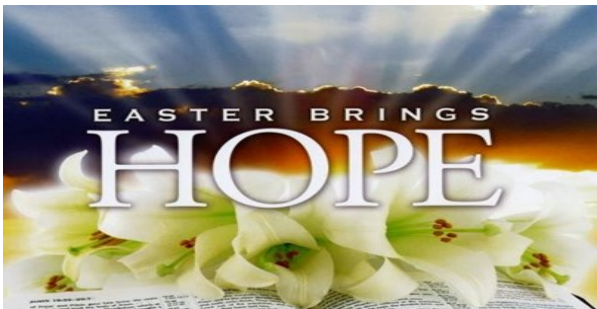
Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter” and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



The Messenger  
April 2025 Edition

HOLY WEEK  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Palm Sunday—April 13 at 10 AM
- Maundy Thursday—April 17 at 7 PM
- Good Friday—April 18 at 7 PM
- Children's Easter Program  
Saturday, April 19 at 10 AM
- Easter Sunday Celebration  
April 20 at 10 AM



As we gather on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox (yes, that is how Easter Sunday is determined) we will engage in shouting and singing: “**He is risen! Yes! He lives. I know that my redeemer lives!**”

Since Jesus died and since this was his mission – on our behalf, we can conclude: Jesus has conquered death and made the grave the gate to eternal life for all who believe.

In times of uncertainty and disease, I pray that you discover or rediscover the hope Easter brings—the power of the resurrection and the promise of life beyond the grave. “*Because Jesus lives, I can face tomorrow...*” 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 partnership with Stacey's Pantry (St. Jacobus, Woodside), St. Paul's, Richmond Hill and Key Food and Stop and Shop Supermarkets, we launched this new ministry providing a monthly service—the next program is set for Thursday, **April 24th from 5PM to 6PM**...and Thursday, May 22nd from 5 PM—6PM.



Yes, volunteers are always welcome **2 hours** before to help prepare bags! 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.



**Lenten Soup Supper at 6 PM**

*Wednesday, March 12 to April 9*

*Special thanks to all our hosts !*



**...Still Wanted !**

**Usher, Lector, Assistant Minister,  
Communion Assistant, Altar Guild Team**



Would you like to remember or honor a loved one at Easter? Please complete the gift sheet enclosed and return by **Sunday, April 13.**



*We journey through the season of Lent with*

**Mid-week Devotions at 7 PM**

April 2 — Welcome Home!

*Luke 15:11-32*

April 9 — A Fragrant Offering

*John 12:1-8*



**Saturday, April 12 from 9—12noon**

All skill levels required, all ages are welcome as we strip palm branches, dust, clean and beautify our church building—inside and outside.

***All are welcome !!***

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

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**Pastor Romeo Dabee**

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

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