

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

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The Messenger

Christmas 2024 Edition

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

Grace and peace to you this night in the name of Jesus – the newborn King – Amen!

Today is the 1st day of a new year – 2025 begins today, but it's also the 8th day of Christmas. So, it is still timely that I extend the greeting “Merry Christmas!” to you and your family.

A sample of festive greetings from across the globe reveals a common thread – a unique event, the “birth” of Jesus “at night.” The one that stands out to me is the German: “*Frohe Weihnachten*” which literally translates into English as “in the holy nights.”

During these holy nights something mysterious happens – during these holy nights, the impossible becomes possible – during these holy nights, light breaks into the darkness of our world in the person of Jesus.

Over the centuries, a lot has changed since that original manger scene, we have electricity and big screens to illuminate our spaces – yet, some challenges still cause us pain and suffering.

There are many who are homeless, hungry and cold – these tonight, there are many homes with an empty chair at the dinner table – these nights, the light is dimmer than we expect.

It is my prayer that as you reflect on this holy night that you would experience the same joy the shepherds experienced when they found him – when they found the gift of God that is Jesus in a manger – on that first holy night. Amen!

With Joyous Anticipation,
Pastor Romeo Dabee



Christmas-at-Sea

Our project to support the Seafarers International House—New York City is extended to January 12. Every crew member on a ship regardless of faith or nationality will receive a satchel containing:

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or not (M-L-XL)
- Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
- One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL)
- One Knitted Winter Cap (scarf optional)
- One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Health Snack Bar
- A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

Thank you for participating!



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 and St. Paul's Richmond Hill, we are providing a monthly service—the next program is set for Thursday, **January 23rd from 3PM to 4PM**...and Thursday, February 27th from 3 PM—4PM.



Yes, volunteers are always welcome by 1 PM to help! 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 and let us know if you have any resources, be it time, talents, and treasures, to grow this new ministry.



...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 a welcoming and meaningful experience for everyone in attendance.



Thank you to all who supported Operation Christmas Child this year—a total of 65 shoe/gift boxes were filled for the children.



As we close out 2024 and usher in the new year 2025, we are encouraged to evaluate or more specifically, assess how God has been at work in our lives—as individuals and collectively as a community of believers, the Church.

In 2024 we had a few celebrations as well as challenges as a people of God, but through faith, we continue to minister to the needs of the South Ozone Park neighborhood and beyond.

In 2025, we pray for better participation by those able to offer their time and talents to make St. James-St. Matthew's a more viable church.

We are in this ministry together and each of us share a responsibility to live out this call. Join us for our annual congregation meeting and get involved:

Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 11 AM

Annual Congregational Meeting

All are invited to participate!



Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

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Contact us by Mail:

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