



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

May 10, 2026 † Sixth Sunday of Easter

From The Pastor

On Tuesday, May 19th and again on Thursday, May 21st, we will have our Listening Sessions as we prepare for the Reconstruction of our Parishes in July of 2027. Each session will offer the same material, videos, and presentation. It is not necessary to attend both meetings. When signing up for the session, please only sign up for one session. You may attend both sessions, but it is not necessary. Registration is for the sake of noting and reporting pertinent comments and feedback that can be used to direct and support the final outcome for each parish.

What is the session for and what does it hope to accomplish? Initially, the priests of the Archdiocese gathered for three days to create proposals for parish realignments. These initial proposals were reviewed by the Catholic Leadership Institute and core leaders from the Archdiocese. The Diocese is interested and concerned to solicit as much pertinent information as possible from all parties impacted by these historic changes. These listening sessions are an opportunity for the people of each parish to give feedback and added information or insight into the value or strength of each parish.

Please note that this is not a time for complaining or arguing about why the Reconstruction is necessary, or why 'my parish must stay open.' The session is looking for previously unknown or otherwise unnamed resources or strengths of a parish that may be favorable in support of the parish. It is these comments, especially those repeated by several people, which will be recorded and considered in the decision-making process.

Participants are encouraged to pray and come to one of the sessions with an open mind and steady heart to offer insightful feedback for the future of our parish. I invite and encourage as many parishioners as possible to attend a session with the intention of adding your voice and feedback on this most important matter. I will be present for each of the sessions. Each session will be led by a facilitator and other support personnel to help the evening go smoothly. Feedback will be recorded and added to the body of material that will determine the future of our parish. Thank you for your prayerful preparation and participation in this important endeavor.

It is true now, as it has been through the evolution of

time, that not all people are interested in God. Some do not believe in God or a Supreme Being. Others resist or reject God because of poor or harmful religious experience. When I meet people who doubt or struggle with faith, the existence of God, or the practice of religion, I ask them if they believe in love.

All human beings are interested in love. Love is our origin, our deepest longing, and our ultimate fulfillment. We are all aware of the pains and challenges of love that has left countless people fearful and resistant to trust new relationships with others or with God. The reality nonetheless remains. Human beings are deeply interested in, dependent on, and longing for a love that makes them whole.

This leads to today's gospel. Jesus is the essence of Incarnate love sent by God to reveal, through lived experience, the gift of divine love. Love heals, unites, converts, animates, redeems. Having fulfilled his mission as the Divine Son, Jesus prepares the disciples for his departure after the Resurrection. He begins with the promise that the Father will send another Advocate, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth.

Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." He is not talking about the ten laws given through Moses, or the rules of religion. Jesus is talking about living in example of his love, mercy, and full surrender for the love of others. To love Jesus is to love God, and to love God is to love yourself. Love of self naturally leads to love and service to others.

This is why we need the person of the Holy Spirit. To learn to love like Jesus, we need the love and truth of the Holy Spirit that animated and directed the life of Jesus. This is why Jesus makes clear that, "I am in the Father and you are in me and I am in you." To know this, we need the presence and action of the Holy Spirit. To keep the commandment of Jesus is to live in love. The most mature way to love God is to love your neighbor as yourself. Personal prayer is essential. Religious piety is important and enriching. But the true test of keeping the commandment of God is to love one another. It can feel like an impossible task, so remember the words of Jesus, "whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." Say yes to love. Always ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

Father John Esper

Liturgical Schedule

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Chapel

Live Streaming of the Following:



**LIVE
STREAMING**

Daily & Weekend Masses

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45 am to 10:00am

Rosary on Thursdays
following 8:00am Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

Contact Information

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071

248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721

Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Closed Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Matthew Zinser, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/ Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation

248-542-8720 call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720

MASS

Intentions

MONDAY, May 11, 2026

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

TUESDAY, May 12, 2026

8:00am Mass: Intentions of families raising special needs children

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2026

8:00am Mass: Don Bessler† req. by Marie Bessler

THURSDAY, May 14, 2026

8:00am Mass: Helen Walczak (Birthday Blessings) req by Sheryl Brown

SATURDAY, May 16, 2026

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Jerry† & Bernadette Gutowski (Memorial Wedding Anniv.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler (56th Anniversary Blessings) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Doris Amick† (10th R.A.) req. by husband, Ray

SUNDAY, May 17, 2026

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Rimantas Labieka † (4th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

Cathy McCarthy † req. by Corrine McCarthy

Cecilia Reisner † req. by Robyn Reisner

William Olszewski † req. by Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham † req. by Family

Charlene Riddell† req. by Women's Sacred Journey Prayer Group

Dennis Menard† (3rd R.A.) req. by wife, Kathy

Readings for the Week

- Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16 and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21
- Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26-16:4a
- Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11
- Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Ps 148: 1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17
- Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Jn 16:20-23
- Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47: 2-3, 8-9, 10/ Jn 16:23b-28
- Next Sunday: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/ Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20





2026

The Catholic Services Appeal for 2026 begins this weekend. Our target for this year is \$ 38,609.00.

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

The theme of this year’s Catholic Services Appeal invites us to place our treasure - our generosity - our trust our commitment - into the mission of Christ and His Church. Your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal supports ministries that form seminarians, strengthen families, accompany the poor and bring the Gospel to people across the Archdiocese of Detroit. When we give from the heart, we help build a Church rooted in hope and alive in mission.

As you discern your participation in this appeal, please note that in 2026, the length of the Catholic Services Appeal is shortened and will end on December 31, 2026. This is being done in order to move the campaign to a single calendar year. In 2027 and future years, the CSA Appeal will be from January 1st to December 31st.

As in past years, checks must be made payable to *Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA* and mailed to the gift processing center in Minnesota using the return envelope included in the packet mailed to parishioners. To make an electronic donation, please follow the directions on the pledge cards.

If you did not receive a CSA letter packet and wish to make a donation, please call the Parish Office.



Consecrating the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

On June 11, 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Parishes around the country are encouraged to join the bishops in consecrating our nation to the Sacred Heart.

For more information visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website:

uscbb.org/weholdthesetruths



Blessing for Mother's Day

*Dear Lord,
 Pour your goodness and grace upon the women of our community today in a special way.
 For mothers: fill them with joy and blessing.
 For those who have lost children: hold them in their sorrow.
 For those who have hoped for children: surround them with Your love.
 For those who have lost a mother: may they know Your comfort.
 For those carrying difficulty on this day: bring them consolation.
 Bless all women this day.
 Thank you for the love they bring to this world, no matter their circumstances or story. Amen.*

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

REGISTER FOR AN AOD RESTRUCTURING LISTENING SESSION

Tuesday, May 19th 7-9pm or Thursday May 21st 7-9pm

To register for the listening session get the link at our website or visit: aod.org and click the “Learn More About Archdiocesan Restructuring” button. Then click the red “register here” button. Enter your information and select the session. If you do not have online access, please contact the Parish Office for help with registration.

For information or questions contact any person below or visit: restructuring.aod.org

Primary Person of Contact: Debbie Tourville

Key Parish Leaders:

Steve Orloski	Tom Karolski
Angie Maynard	Corrine McCarthy
Linda Collins	Judy McCown
Mike Kairis	Linda Yolkiewicz

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In my family, we can hardly speak about orphans without tears. My father was adopted as a baby. He frequently told us stories of how his parents welcomed him not just into their home but into their hearts. It was never merely a relocation or a legal transaction. It was the joy of being chosen, of receiving a family, a name, and a place where he belonged forever. Even in his later years, recalling that gift still moves him to tears of tender gratitude.

That is the kind of tenderness behind Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18) He is going away, but not abandoning us. Instead, he sends us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit — his own Spirit, shared with the Father — who dwells in us. Through the Spirit, Christ is present in us, and we are present in him. His Spirit gives us a home and a family.

We deepen this knowledge in the sacraments, in prayer, and in the daily life of the Church. The Spirit is the bond of belonging, the power that makes us God's sons and daughters, not spiritual orphans. And this is not a one-time event. There is always a deeper outpouring of the Spirit available to us, a fresh appropriation of the promise that we are never abandoned.

If only we could be as grateful as my dad is for his adoption, realizing that we have been adopted by God Himself. In Christ, we are never left as orphans.

— *Father John Muir*

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...government leaders everywhere to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, floods, wars, earthquakes and disasters.

...respect for life from conception to natural death

...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

...all who are sick, homebound undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests:

Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen



EVANGELICAL CHARITY

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:00pm in the church. Those interested in becoming part of this ministry are welcome to attend the meeting.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

When we want to see Christ's face, we must look to the Sacraments. "The world will no longer see me," Christ tells his disciples, "but you will see me." This ability to see Jesus is a gift of the Holy Spirit, one made again and again — even today. ©LPI

SPRING BLOOD DRIVE - UPDATE

Thank all of you for a successful blood drive. Those who tried, volunteered, and those who gave made a difference for 60 people. We had a total of 21 signed up to give and were able to collect 20 units of blood. Each unit of blood helps 3 people in the form of packed blood cells, platelets, and plasma.

Thank you all for giving someone a chance at another birthday, another laugh, hug, and chance at life. The donors said they really feel good after donating and some even do it every time they can give. Those who were turned away felt bad they couldn't give but their courage and their efforts are not to be dismissed, you are valued. The volunteers truly put their hearts into their tasks. They welcomed and had conversations with the donors making the time go faster. We met many new friends and were able to share information with many.

It was a wonderful experience. Thank you again for your commitment to helping others. Thank you for seeing the needs of others around us and becoming the hands and feet of Jesus.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

Body and Blood of Christ

Question: One of my coworkers said that Catholics believe we kill Christ again when we celebrate the Mass, since it is his sacrifice. I know that is not right, but how do we explain it?

Answer: We do indeed believe that the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and we believe that the sacrifice is made present again on the altar—not to repeat it, but to join ourselves to it. We are joined to the saving work of Christ, not just simply remembering it.

The closest thing we might have in our culture is when a couple saves some wedding cake in the freezer, and on their first anniversary, they may watch their wedding video and eat the cake, all to recapture the moment. The Jews celebrate a Seder meal, not to remember the Passover, but to participate in it through the ritual foods, questions, and readings. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Mass as the “Holy Sacrifice, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ” (#1330). To think that we must sacrifice Christ over and over again would negate what he did on Calvary. To celebrate and renew it each day allows us to participate in it. That is the “source and summit” of Christian life (#1324) ©LPi



**VIRTUES, EXPLAINED!
CONNECT WITH
TRADITION AND
GROW YOUR FAITH**

Courage, Explained!

In the Roman Rite, bishops extend their hands over confirmandi, praying that they will be given “a spirit of right judgment and courage.”

This invocation echoes countless passages of sacred Scripture extolling the virtue of courage. “Be strong and courageous in your hearts, all you who place your hope in the Lord,” says Psalm 31:25. “I have given you a command. Be strong and brave, do not be afraid nor dismayed. I, the Lord, your God, will be with you wherever you go,” the Lord says in Joshua 1:9. Courage is also a frequent watchword of Christ: “ Take courage! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

The virtue of courage is intimately linked with that of fortitude — roughly understood as courage in action — and is shown by the person who *makes a choice to place his trust in God, not in circumstance.*

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On Saturday, May 2, 2026 Reverend John Esper administered the Sacrament of Baptism to *Isla Marlene Vacante*

We welcome her into Christ’s family.

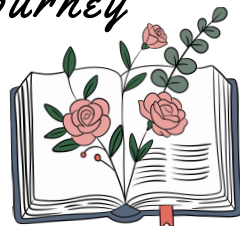
May she grow strong in her faith.

May God bless our newly baptized and her family.

Women’s Sacred Journey

Saturday, May 16 at 9:00am

**Faith Formation Office
SVF School Bldg.**



Women’s Sacred Journey group invites all women to join them in praying and reflecting on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

May 16/17, 2026

MASS	4:00PM	9:00AM
Sacristan/Asst.	T Riley	L Yolkievicz
Reader #1	D Tourville	A Goll
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkievicz
EME	D Tourville	T Karolski
EME	M Simmons	R Grant
EME	L Collins	C McCarthy
Greeter	R Bertolini	T Oparka
Greeter	L Collins	N Oparka
Greeter	T Pasiak	P Rarus
Greeter	R Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba

Traveling Chalice Host Beginning May 16/17, 2026
Jennifer Lussier



Feast Day
May 13
Our Lady
of Fatima,
pray for us!

*Abandon yourself to the Virgin Mary.
 She will take care of you.*
Padre Pio

The Christ you See

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

“What if you are the only version of Christ someone sees today?” a friend once asked me.

My blood ran cold. Jeez, I thought. That would be... really unfortunate.

The world cannot accept the Holy Spirit, Christ tells us, because the world cannot see and know the Holy Spirit (John 14:17). But the world can see us. The world can know us. In this way, we accomplish the Great Commission: we go forth, and we make disciples of all nations. In all that we are and all that we do, we offer an explanation for our hope (1 Peter 3:15).

We face a unique situation, 2,000 years after the Resurrection, because our mission field is full of people who have already heard about Christ.

And they have zero interest, thanks-and-please-get-off-my-porch.

This Christ they’ve seen? He puts himself first. He’s suspicious of other people. He’s not interested in mixing with the wrong crowd. He’s been known to lie, to abuse trust, to protect himself.

Here’s the problem: they haven’t seen Christ at all. They’ve only seen Christians.

It’s easy to blame the obvious culprits: the priest consumed in public scandal, the parish trustee who stole from the coffers. But these are only larger versions of the same failure of which I am guilty each time I shiver at the thought of someone associating my behavior, my words, and my attitude with my Savior.

I am not Christ. I am nowhere close. But I am fortunate enough to be a member of his Body.

We all fail, of course. Every apostle, every saint, every bishop, every priest, every man and woman in the pews: we are all broken. We are all in need of redemption. When we accept that redemption, however, we also accept responsibility. Because now, we become what the world sees of Christ.

Am I ready to be the only version of Christ someone sees today?

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Question: We hear how even the Samaritans came to believe in Jesus and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. When have you been surprised by God?

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18

Question: Peter taught his community to learn how to explain their faith to others, even if they are hostile. Do you feel confident defending the faith?

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21

Question: Jesus assures his disciples that God gives us the Holy Spirit to serve as our Advocate. What might you pray for this week from the Holy Spirit?

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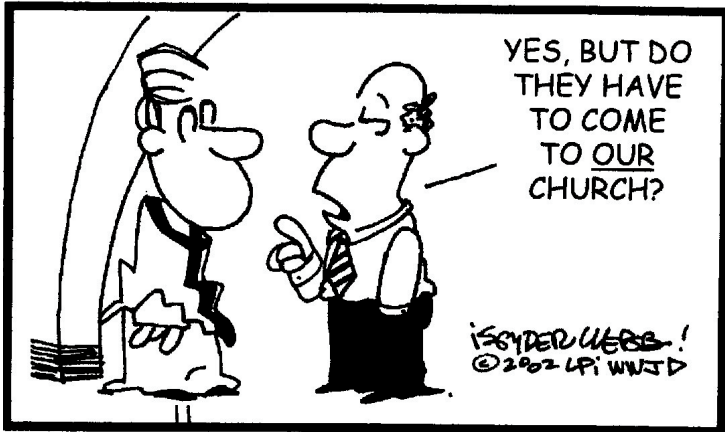
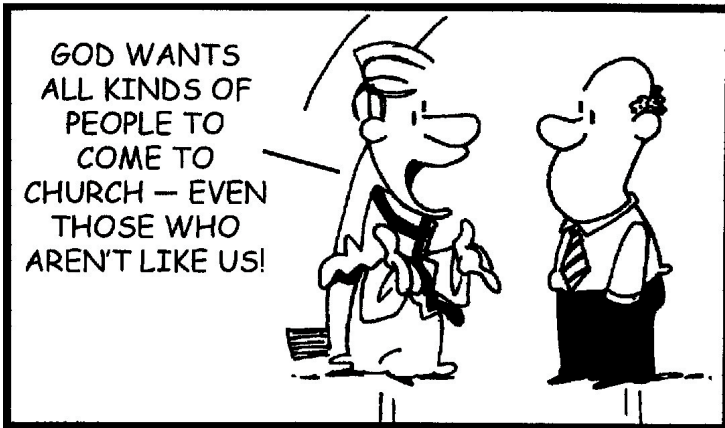
Observances of the Week

- Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day
- Tuesday: Ss. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
- Wednesday: Our Lady of Fatima
- Thursday: St. Matthias, Apostle
- Friday: St. Isidore
- Next Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day ©LPI

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is required by Canon Law to be enclosed in every Catholic chapel and church?

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Answer: A relic



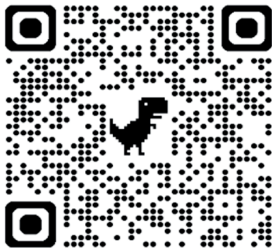
Work Together For God

My children could never succeed without their mother and me. That isn't me thinking too much of ourselves, it is just a fact. No one can find success in life in total isolation. I could never have become who I am today without my parents, various teachers and mentors, and my wife. Truth be told, I probably owe a lot of who I am to my children as well.

I can only imagine the fear and concern of the first disciples when it was apparent that Jesus was not going to be with them much longer. Some probably thought since Jesus had risen from the dead, he might just live with them in the same way forever. But Jesus tried to calm their fears by assuring them, "I will not leave you orphans." He said he would continue to come to them and that he would send the Spirit to be with them at all times. They would not have to continue what he had started and preach the good news to the ends of the earth on their own.

We may sometimes feel that we are alone. We may at times try to do too much or show others that we are independent and strong. However, without the help of others, without the help of God, true success will always elude us. Our actions and words can become empty. The gifts we have received can either be cultivated in secret and in the shadows, or we can welcome the help that God provides in his Spirit, his community, and the sacraments he gave us. By working together the world will truly know the power of the risen Lord.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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To support St. Vincent Ferrer Church with a financial contribution scan the QRcode to connect to our tithe.giving site.

Financial Stewardship Giving - Week Ending May 2/3, 2026

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Envelopes Used & e-fund participants	240	107		
Offertory	5,185.00	6,632.77	1,447.77	26,167.04
Energy/Hospitality/Flowers/Candles/Mass Intentions	472.00	1,157.00	685.00	2,659.00
Fundraising: Budget Deficit Envelopes/CSA Refunds	1,673.00	**1,352.62	(320.38)	32,270.43
Bequests:				3,247.00
AOD Collection				
** includes 997.62 CSA 2025 refunds				
CSA 2026 Pledges 4,520.00			CSA 2026 Paid	3,850.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,408.50			CSA 2025 Paid	69,408.50

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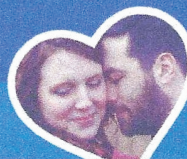


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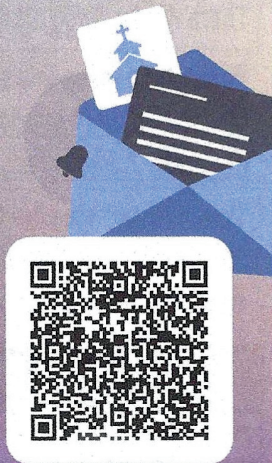
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