

# Welcome!

**Sacrament of Reconciliation  
(Confession)**

with Adoration of the  
Blessed Sacrament:

TUE: 6pm - 9pm

**Daily Mass:**

MON-THU: 7:30am

FRI: 9am

SAT: 8am

CIVIC HOLIDAYS: 9am

Everyone Welcome!

**Rosary:**

MON-THU: 8am

Everyone Welcome!

**Sunday Mass:**

**SAT VIGIL:**

4pm, 7:15pm

**SUN MASS:**

7:30am, 9am, 11am

Livestreamed at 4pm Sat.

**New Parishioners:**

We warmly welcome  
new members.

Please call our office at

(203) 377-3133, ext. 101

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

**SUN: 1pm, by appointment.**

Pre-Baptismal instruction is  
required for first-time parents.

Please call our office at

(203) 377-3133, ext. 101

**Parish Office Hours:**

MON-THU: 9am - 4:30pm

FRI: Closed

**Location:**

In Historic Nichols

220 Shelton Road

Trumbull, CT 06611

(203) 377-3133

www.stcathtrumbull.com

office@stcatherinetrumbull.com



@StCathTrumbull

TheParishofStCatherineofSiena

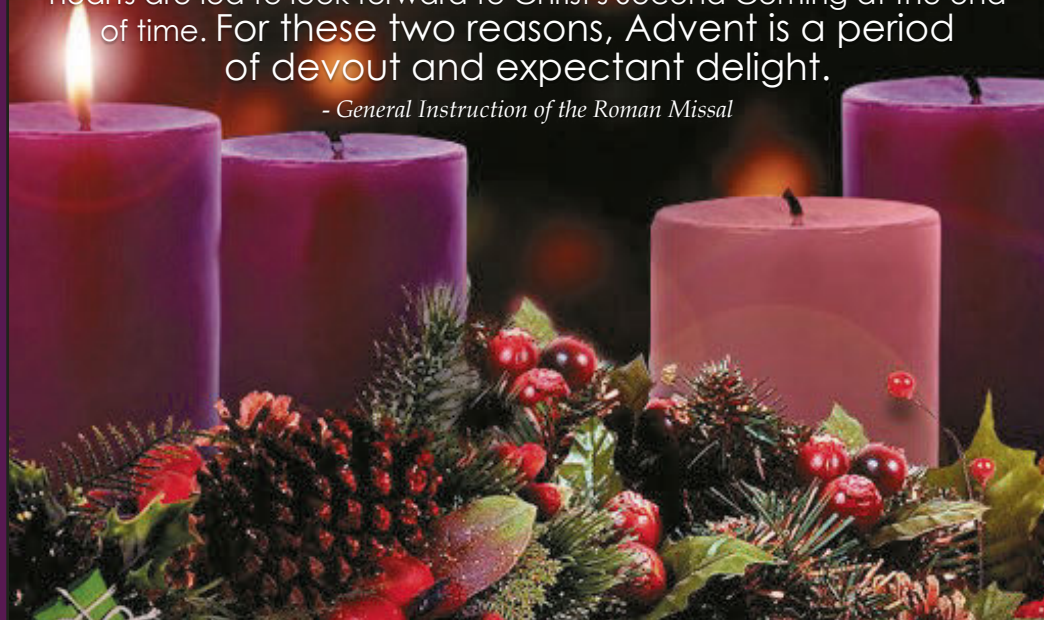
## The Parish of Saint Catherine of Siena



### ADVENT HAS A TWOFOLD CHARACTER,

for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

- General Instruction of the Roman Missal



### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DEC 1, 2024

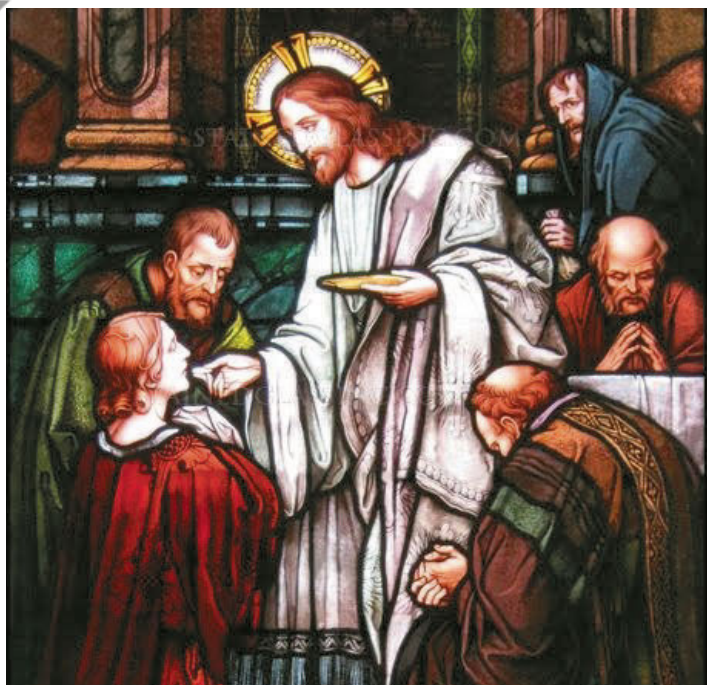
**Father Joseph A. Marcello, Pastor**

**Father Joseph O. Ocran, In Residence**

**Deacon Patrick Toole, Deacon of the Parish**

- Robert J. Cavallero:** Director of Parish Operations, Ext. 102  
**Zac Schurman:** Director of Sacred Music & Organist, Ext. 105  
**Leah DeVito:** Director of Religious Education, Ext. 106  
**Mary Ellen Kovacs:** Director of Pastoral Care, Ext. 104  
**Kate Gombos:** Director of Communications and Digital Media, Ext. 107  
**Ellen Moran:** Parish Office Manager, Ext. 101  
**Marianne Stook:** Administrative Assistant, Ext. 112  
**Rita Buchetto:** Parish Office Assistant, Ext. 109  
**Eric Vogel:** Coordinator for Social Justice and Charitable Outreach  
**Raymond Kingsbury:** Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
**Denise Huertas:** Safe Environment Coordinator
- Michelle Powrie:** Principal, St. Catherine of Siena School  
(203) 375-1947  
**John W. Diercksen:** Chair, Parish Finance Council  
**Atty. Joseph R. Tristine:** Chair, Pastoral Advisory Council  
**Ross Bacarella:** Lay Member of the Parish Corporation  
**Jeff Wright:** Lay Member of the Parish Corporation





**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE  
FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2024**

- Mon, Dec. 2:** **ADVENT WEEKDAY**  
7:30AM † Helen Molochko
- Tue, Dec. 3:** **ADVENT WEEKDAY**  
**St. Francis Xavier**  
7:30AM † Nina Sica Collins  
8:00AM-9:00PM *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*  
5:00PM-9:00PM *Confession*
- Wed, Dec. 4:** **ADVENT WEEKDAY**  
**St. John Damascene**  
7:30AM † Douglas B. Kinsman, Sr.
- Thu, Dec. 5:** **ADVENT WEEKDAY**  
7:30AM † Vincent & Florence Redes
- Fri, Dec. 6:** **FIRST FRIDAY**  
**St. Nicholas**  
9:00AM † Roberto Leonardo Palumbo  
10:00AM-3:00PM *Adoration*
- Sat, Dec. 7:** **FIRST SATURDAY**  
**St. Ambrose**  
8:00AM *No Mass: Jingle Bell Run.*  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*(Anticipated)*  
4:00PM † Thibodeau Family  
7:15PM † Fred D. Brown
- Sun, Dec. 8:** **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
7:30AM † Catherine Principato  
9:00AM Our Parishioners  
11:00AM † Kurt Parrino

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp, which indicates and honors the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, burns this week in memory of **Helen Molochko**



*Advent*  
A SEASON OF HOPE



**THE PARISH OF ST. CATHERINE  
OF SIENA WARMLY WELCOMES...**

...anyone who is new to our area, anyone who is searching for the truth, or anyone who is looking for a spiritual home. We are joyfully and faithfully Roman Catholic in belief and practice - a community of faith, worship, service, and formation - and with open hearts we invite all our brothers and sisters into a living and saving friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ, in the communion of His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

*Prayer*MINISTRY

*Please remember in your daily prayers all the sick of our Parish and their caregivers, especially:*

Marlene Roberts, Ernestine Gaudio, Ivan Capella, Sigrid Rogowski, Michael Fernandes, Rose Autuori, Jack Godo, Elaine Annick.

*Contact Mary Ellen Kovacs, Director of Pastoral Care: (203) 377-3133, ext. 104.*

*Please remember in your prayers the family & friends of our Parish serving in the military. We pray for peace & for all serving in the military.*

**ETV1(SS) Eli Bair, USN**  
**LCDR Robert C. Ballard Jr., USN**  
**Major Gregg Zavadsky, U.S. Army**  
**SPC Zachary Kaesmann, ARNG**  
**CPL Adam DePasacreta, USMC**  
**Riley Payne, Airman Recruit, USN**  
**Robert J. Thompson III, U.S. Army**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Peter Sandri, U.S. Army**



**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

The Parish of St. Catherine of Siena prays for **Briana Constantini Joseph and Marzigliano (Bann I)** as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.



**RESPECT LIFE**

The white rose at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary reminds us all to pray for an increased respect for the gift of human life. This week, it is offered in memory of **Helen Molochko**





# ❧ A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR! ❧

Dear Friends,

Advent is one of the most beautiful times of the liturgical year, but in our culture it tends to get lost as the world around us jumps right from Thanksgiving (or even right from Halloween) to Christmas.

This year, let's not allow ourselves to be cheated out of experiencing Advent authentically and well. Why? So that we will be able to appreciate and experience Christmas authentically, and not just superficially. Even more specifically, it is necessary to experience Advent well so that we will be able to know Christ more deeply, so that our capacity to return that love to Him will be increased and deepened.



For starters, the sheer rapidity of Advent reminds us how fleeting is human life, and how brief is our window for coming to know and love God, and how quickly passes the time in which we are given the opportunity to do all the good we can in this life. In this regard, St. Therese of Lisieux once famously said: "We have only the short moments of this life to work for God's glory. The devil knows this, and that is why he tries to make us waste time in useless things!"

The four weeks of Advent are also traditionally given over to thinking deeply about the four "Last Things," which are: *Death* (than which nothing is more certain), *Judgment* (than which nothing is more exacting), *Heaven* (than which nothing is more wonderful), and *Hell* (than which nothing is more terrible). The CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH explains: *Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ. The New Testament speaks of judgment primarily in its aspect of the final encounter with Christ in his second coming, but also repeatedly affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with his works and faith. The parable of the poor man Lazarus and the words of Christ on the cross to the good thief, as well as other New Testament texts, speak of a final destiny of the soul – a destiny which can be different for some and for others (CCC 1021).*

Bringing up the Last Things may seem at odds with the festive nature of this time of year. But a closer examination reveals that this is not the case at all. Here's why: until and unless we realize deeply and personally what Christ saves us *from*, and what it cost Him to save us (His life, and all of His blood), then we cannot even begin to understand His greatness, or what we owe to Him, or what Christmas truly is. Here's something else to keep in mind during these days of Advent: the first part of Advent (from today until December 16) is focused on looking ahead to and preparing ourselves for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end," as we pray each Sunday in the Creed.

Once again, the CATECHISM explains this truth clearly: *The Last Judgment will come when Christ returns in glory. Only the Father knows the day and the hour; only he determines the moment of its coming. Then through his Son Jesus Christ he will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvelous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. The Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God's love is stronger than death (CCC 1040). In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself, the truth of each person's relationship with God will be laid bare. The Last Judgment will reveal even to its furthest consequences the good each person has done or failed to do during his earthly life (CCC 1039).*

The second part of Advent (from December 17 until December 24) is focused on readying ourselves for a grateful remembrance of Christ's First Coming at Bethlehem on Christmas. So, at the outset of this brief but beautiful and terribly important liturgical season, the Church prays in these words, the Collect for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless you!

*Federico Marcello*



# Advent

A SEASON OF HOPE

# 2024

**NOTHING COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN TO COME TO MASS TOGETHER AS A FAMILY!**

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sat at 4:00pm & 7:15pm ; Sun at 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am

**DAILY MASS: Mon – Thu: 7:30am, Fri: 9:00am, Sat: 8:00am**



### ADVENT ADORATION & CONFESSION

During one of the most hectic times of the year, we're happy to provide this oasis of peace and quiet, in the presence of Our Lord Himself, in the Blessed Sacrament.

*Tue, Dec 3:* Adoration 8am-9pm  
Confession 5-9pm

*FIRST FRIDAY, Dec 6:* Adoration 10am-3pm

*Tue, Dec 10 & 17:*  
Adoration & Confession 6-9pm



### ADVENT MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA Details TBA

Olivia Ericsson, *mezzo-soprano*  
Zac Schurman, *organ*



### SOLEMNITY OF

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Mass: Mon, Dec 9, 7:30am, 12:10pm & 7:00pm*

Our Blessed Mother, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the Patroness of the USA. Our celebrations will honor Our Lady & ask her protection on our country, our families, & our parish.

### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, CAROLS & COCOA!

*Sat, Dec 14, 4:00 pm*

Join us for a special tradition at St. Catherine's. Following the 4pm Mass on Sat, Dec 14, we'll go to the front lawn for our Ninth Annual Tree Lighting! *Hot Chocolate & Cookies to follow!*



### CHRISTMAS OPLATKI

Available in the Sacristy after Mass or at the Parish Office.  
\$2 per package.



## ANNUAL PARISH GIVING TREE

**St. Charles Borromeo Parish:** Look for a Green Tree on the Giving Tree.

**Blessed Sacrament Parish:** Parishioners are especially requesting hats and gloves. Look for a Yellow Bulb on the Giving Tree.

**St. Mary Parish** gives a gift to their Rel Ed students. Look for a Red Ornament on the Giving Tree.

**Convent of Mary Immaculate** gives a gift to their preK and First Holy Communion children. Look for a Brown Gingerbread Man on the Giving Tree.

**The McGivney Center** hosts an annual "McGivney Christmas Store" where kids can "purchase" gifts for their family & friends. Kids earn "bucks" to spend at the sale through good report cards, helping others, and good deeds. Look for a Blue Angel on the Giving Tree.

### WAYS TO DONATE:

*Deliver unwrapped gifts with the ornament securely attached to the gift.*

**Drive Through Donations:** Sat, Dec 14, 10am-12pm. *Saturday only.*

**At All Masses:** through Dec 15.

**Financial Donations:** Use online giving (link on parish website). Or mail a check to the Parish Office, payable to St. Catherine of Siena. Write "Giving Tree" in the memo line. Surplus funds will be directed to the organizations listed above.

**Questions:** Christmas  
@stcatherinetrumbull.com

*If you or someone you know is in need of help this Advent and Christmas Season, please let us know.*



## ❧ Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule ❧

### Christmas Eve

Tue, Dec 24 • 4pm (Family Center), \*6pm (Church)

### The Midnight Mass of Christmas

\*12:00 Midnight. Prelude music begins at 11:30pm

### Christmas Day

Wed, Dec 25 • 9am, 11am (NO 7:30am)

*Festive Mass with Soloists and Instrumentalists at 11:00am*

*\* The 6pm Mass and Midnight Mass will be livestreamed on our Parish Website and YouTube Channel.*



## The Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God

*A Holy Day of Obligation*

Vigil Mass  
Tue, Dec 31, 5:00pm

Wed, Jan 1, 2023  
(New Year's Day)

Mass: 9am, 11am  
(NO 7:30am)

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Do you know a high school student who loves to hang with friends, have fun, and enjoys a yummy treat too?

**Tell them about Youth Group – every Sunday, from 6-8pm.**

**UP NEXT:** DEC 1: *No meeting. Happy Thanksgiving.* DEC 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Mass followed by breakfast and Christmas Jeopardy. DEC 15: Fitness & Faith, Ultimate Frisbee. DEC 22: Christmas Party & Secret Santa. DEC 29: *No Meeting, Christmas Break.*

**INFO:** [RKingsbury@stcatherinetrumbull.com](mailto:RKingsbury@stcatherinetrumbull.com)



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**SAINT AND SEEK:** New Month, New Saint!! December is for St. Mother Teresa. Come **SEEK** the window for **Mother Teresa** & **GET** a little gift from us!



**HELP WANTED!** Rel Ed is hiring a **Head Catechist** to oversee the Rel Ed program during class time. Responsibilities include: coordination of catechists, management of the building during class time, attendance management, communication with families, curriculum development, ensuring that the teachings of the Catholic Church are effectively communicated to students. Approx 10hrs/week, paid. Contact Leah DeVito for information.

### SACRAMENT REGISTRATION:

- First Holy Communion Registration is due Dec 6. Forms were emailed to families.
- First Reconciliation Registration is due Dec 9. Forms were emailed to families.
- Registration for Confirmation was due Nov 13. If you haven't submitted, please do so ASAP.

**CLASSES RESUME THIS WEEK:** Tue, Dec 3 & Wed Dec 4. *No classes on Dec 1, Thanksgiving break*

**LEAH DEVITO, DRE,**  
[reled@stcatherinetrumbull.com](mailto:reled@stcatherinetrumbull.com)

## CONFESSION

We are happy to provide the schedule for the Sacrament of Penance at parishes in the area:

**MON:** Christ the King, 7-8pm;  
*cancelled on Holy Days & Civic Holidays*

**TUE:** St. Catherine's, 6-9pm;  
*with Adoration*

**WED:** St. Pius X, Fairfield, 7-8pm

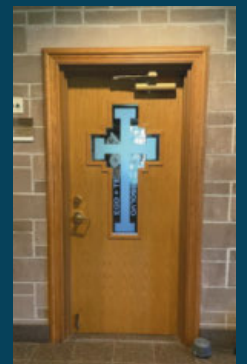
**THU:** St. Theresa, 7-8:30pm

**FRI:** St. Theresa, 7:30-8am & 4:30-5:30pm

**SAT:** St. Lawrence, Shelton, 4-4:45pm; St. Mark, Stratford, 3:30-4:30pm; St. Stephen, 3:30-4:30pm; Christ the King, 4:00-4:45pm; St. Pius X, Fairfield, 4:00-5:00pm; St. Theresa, 3:30-4:30pm

**SUN:** St. Lawrence, Shelton, 11-11:30am; St. Theresa, 7-7:30am, 8:30-9am, 10-10:30am, 11:30am-12:00pm

**HAS IT BEEN A WHILE?** Resources for adults, teens & kids are at [stcathtrumbull.com](http://stcathtrumbull.com) to help you prepare.





## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA SCHOOL:



Come work at the School! St. Catherine of Siena School is currently seeking:

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1. SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS who are passionate about education and eager to support our students.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact:

Mrs. Michelle Powrie, Principal  
[mpowrie@scsstrumbull.org](mailto:mpowrie@scsstrumbull.org)

203-375-1947 | [stcatherinesienatrumbull.org](http://stcatherinesienatrumbull.org)

## NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS:

Deacon Toole's Scripture Study will take a break over Thanksgiving and during Advent. Sessions will resume on Jan 15. Please join us then!



## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

*Next weekend's Gospel reading is provided here, so that we can think and pray about it, and be ready to receive it into our minds and hearts when it is proclaimed at Mass.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."* Luke 3:1-6

## 2024 ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL



...is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> week. Thanks to your generosity in previous years, we were able to raise more than \$150,000 through this campaign, which enabled us to meet the ongoing, fixed costs of maintaining our beautiful parish campus and facilities, and to stay current with our other obligations. This year's goal remains at \$150,000, which will help us to meet these same goals. Our mission of faith, worship, and service here at St. Catherine's is a rock of stability for our parishioners and our larger community during these ongoing and challenging times.

As of Nov. 20, we have received \$96,400 in pledges from 170 families (64.2% of goal).

Together with our Parish Finance Council & Trustees, we ask for everyone's active participation in this year's Appeal.

**DONATE ONLINE at: [stcathtrumbull.com](http://stcathtrumbull.com)**

*All of us make up St. Catherine's. Every gift counts. We are so grateful that you are a part of our Parish Community. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous support.*

## Giving Back to God



**OFFERTORY:** *We are very grateful* to everyone who is using our Online Giving platform. Your generous and steadfast support keeps our parish running. Use this QR code to make your weekly offertory gift to the parish. Thank you!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERTORY!**

WE WILL REPORT OFFERTORY FOR  
NOVEMBER 23/24 ON DECEMBER 8.



**ACCOUNTABILITY SUNDAY:** The first Sunday of Dec. is "Accountability Sunday" in the Diocese of Bridgeport — that time of the year when we make our financial statements available to you. The report will be published on our parish website as of December 1. Look for the Diocese's logo.

**YEAR END GIVING:** Many parishioners use this special time to help support the Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and receive helpful tax benefits as well! **Potential Gifts may include:** The Annual Parish Appeal; Offertory & Gift Donations; Transfer of Securities (Stocks, Bonds & Mutual Funds). Additionally, if you are 73 & older & have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement plan, you may benefit from a direct gift to St. Catherine's. Consult with your tax advisor or plan administrator. All gifts must be received or post-marked by Tue, Dec 31. *Don't miss this chance to maximize your charitable giving while receiving a potential immediate tax benefit before year's end!*

**BOB CAVALLERO**, Director of Parish Operations  
[RobertCavallero@stcatherinetrumbull.com](mailto:RobertCavallero@stcatherinetrumbull.com)

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The Parish of Saint Catherine of Siena

**Energy Challenge**

HCP will donate \$25 to your parish for every energy audit it completes for parish members and friends. Scan this QR code, submit the application, start saving money on electric and heating bills.

(We encourage sharing this QR code with family, neighbors, and friends to maximize your church donation. This promotion ends October 31st, 2024.)

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