Church of the Holy Family
The Church of the Holy Family is a small, vibrant south suburban parish located 35 miles south of Chicago’s loop area. We are a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, grounded in the Anglican tradition.

Our church draws from 14 neighboring communities, and is ethnically and racially diverse. We are especially proud of our population of families who have brought new life and joy to add to the seasoned wisdom of long-term members.

Our beautiful parish grounds boast an assortment of perennials and annuals, trees, and the opportunity for more! We have a small columbarium near the south side of the church and a small 2-bedroom rectory is available for use. We enjoy using our grounds for outdoor picnics and parties, as well as an occasional Mass on the Grass.

The church was designed by architect Edward Dart, a well-known architect in the Chicago area. The Church has a steep pitched roof and the floor plan is cruciform. The windowless walls symbolize that the church is set apart from the world. The wall separating the nave from the narthex is mostly glass with an angel etched in the glass. We are very proud of our church and its grounds.
As confirmed by our Congregational Assessment Tool, Holy Family tends to be a more traditional church. However, we enjoy music and often weave contemporary liturgy into our services. We ranked considerably high in spiritual vitality. Faith is central to the lives of our congregation and we strive through liturgy, music, Christian formation, and outreach to ensure that God remains at the center of everything we do.

On Sundays, we celebrate the Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. Pre-pandemic, we also held an evening service on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and an 8 a.m. service on Sundays. We are currently holding hybrid services on Sundays with roughly 15 people following the service via Zoom and 25 attending in person. We hope to restore at least one, if not both, of the pre-pandemic services.

Every weekday evening, a small, but dedicated, group of parishioners meet via Zoom for Evening Prayer. Pre-pandemic, we also had a Wednesday morning Healing Service that we would love to restore.

Parish liturgy combines the talents and dedication of the priest, our deacon, and laity and incorporates the gifts of our younger members. Worship roles include lay ministers, acolytes, altar guild members, greeters, prayer leaders, musicians, and ushers.

Music has always been an important part of worship at Holy Family, especially during our 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays. However, due to the pandemic and the loss of beloved members of our church family, we are in a time of transition. We are hopeful to revive the music of the church to what it once was. Our building was made for music, and the voices of a few can fill the space and lift the spirits of all who worship with us.
Christian formation for children is linked to the 10:30 a.m. service. However, since the pandemic, all Sunday School activities have been hosted through Facebook.

Children enjoy activities and lessons during the first part of the service, joining the congregation during the Passing of the Peace. We have worked to make sure that worship is welcoming to children by providing quiet play opportunities in a corner of the nave, offering opportunities for children’s sermons, and relishing in the joyful noise that our youngest members bring to the service.

Christian Formation for adults includes regular weeknight opportunities for group study, as well as suggested materials for home study for those unable to attend. During the Advent and Lenten seasons, special books and materials are introduced for discussion. With the investment of a new technology device called the Meeting Owl and other technology enhancements, we anticipate continuing adult formation in a hybrid manner.

Outreach at Holy Family is something we hope to revive and enhance. In the past, we have contributed our space as a Tuesday evening hosting site for PADS, a south suburban agency that provides meals and shelter each evening at different locations throughout the south suburban communities.

The bonds we have formed with a companion parish in the Diocese of Southeast Mexico have been wonderful, and we regularly lift up the Diocese of Renk in Sudan in our prayers.
We have sponsored several community events throughout the year, including Vacation Bible School, a Community Health Fair, Sunday School car washes, and a Blessing of the Pets in honor of St. Francis. We have taken “Ashes to Go” to local commuter stations and hosted a pancake breakfast for Shrove Tuesday. We also give to our local food pantry and donate supplies to the local school districts.

**Our Parish Ministries**

Past and present Parish Ministries include: Acolytes, Choir, Altar Guild, Bread Bakers, Chalice Administrators, Christian Education leaders, Lectors and Evening Prayer readers, Lay Pastoral Care, Prayers of the People, St. Margaret’s Guild, the Men’s Club, and a Communications & Technology Group.

**Parish Operations**

Parish operations are accomplished through a combination of lay and professional staff. The rector has been the only full-time staff position, while the administrative assistant, music director, and sexton are all part-time positions. All work with the rector and vestry to create a seamless administration.

Holy Family has seven Vestry members and two wardens. The elected group meets monthly and is chaired by the rector. The treasurers handle the disbursement of funds and are elected by the Vestry. Committees of the Vestry include: Buildings & Grounds, Endowment, and Finance.

Since 2019, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) has a space rental agreement with Holy Family. We occasionally share in services and events with their congregation.
A Brief History

The first Vicar of Holy Family was installed in 1950. The first service was conducted on July 30, 1950. In 1952, the first building, now the parish hall, was completed. The parish hall was used for worship until the church could be built.

In November 1954, the second Vicar, The Very Rev. Robert Ruffie, was installed. The following year, an addition to the original building, which is now the office wing, was built.

In November 1957, ground was broken for the new church, which was first used for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve 1958.

In January 1993, Father Ruffie retired after more than 38 years as Rector. The following November, Father Wayne Carlson celebrated his first Eucharist as the second rector of Holy Family and served until his retirement in June 2011.

In February 2002, the Rev. Elizabeth Lloyd was ordained as Deacon, the first Deacon called from the parish. She schedules Communion bread bakers, assists the writers of the Prayers of the People, serves on the Altar Guild, and assists the rector with pastoral care visits to the sick and shut-in parishioners.

In November 2013, Rev. Rachael Gregory celebrated her first Eucharist as the third rector of Holy Family and was installed in February 2014. She resigned in March 2015 for personal reasons.

In April 2016, The Very Rev. Johnnette Shane celebrated her first Eucharist as the fourth rector of Holy Family. She retired in May 2021.
## Financials

### 2021 Actual / 2022 Budget

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<tr>
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<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>2022 Budget</th>
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<tbody>
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*Other income includes seasonal offerings, interest income, rental agreements, and endowment account income.*
Goals

In our congregational assessment, we identified the following priorities:

- Strengthen the management and support of various ministries so they are able to do what they do best in work that is meaningful and celebrated.
- Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.
- Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.
- Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.

Our Next Rector

We are seeking a priest who will:

- Demonstrate a clear vision for the spiritual life and worship of Holy Family and bring new and fresh ideas to lead us toward these goals, while also appreciating the strengths of our traditional background. This will involve helping us to develop effective Christian formation, and leading us to rebuild our music ministry under new leadership.
- Share in our enthusiasm to build connections within our community.
- Actively support planning regarding the stewardship of our gifts and financial resources.
- Strengthen our pastoral care and parish ministries by identifying, mentoring, and developing lay leaders from within the congregation.
- Share their gift of administration, guiding and supporting the staff and lay leaders of the church, as well as managing our renters.

To apply for this position, please complete the Clergy Information Form for Transitions found on the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago website at episcopalchicago.org. For more information on the application process please contact Andrea Mysen, Director of Ministries, at amysen@episcopalchicago.org or 312.751.4203.
The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago has 122 member congregations, spreading from Lake Michigan on the east, to the Wisconsin border on the north, and the Iowa border on the west. The Diocese is known for its leadership initiatives designed to support congregational vitality. The diocese focuses its energies on two key programs: The College for Congregational Development and Fierce Conversations. The Nicholas Center, located on the fifth floor of the Diocesan office building in downtown Chicago, provides classroom space and accommodations for these programs as well as other leadership events for clergy and lay leaders.

At a special convention in December, 2020 the Rev. Paula E. Clark, then canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Washington, D.C., was elected to serve as bishop. While the diocese eagerly awaits bishop-elect Clark’s consecration, the diocese is well served by our Assisting Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, and the Standing Committee, which is functioning as ecclesiastical authority.
About Park Forest

Church of the Holy Family is located in Park Forest, IL. The village was originally designed as a planned community for veterans returning from World War II. As of the 2020 census, the village had a population of 21,687. Park Forest is a racially and socio-economically diverse community, although 69% Black or African American, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

The Park Forest community offers surrounding communities several opportunities for arts and culture, including the Illinois Theatre Center, the Freedom Hall Performing Arts Theatre, the Tall Grass Arts Association, and the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is headquartered there. The village also boasts an active public library with regular youth and adult events for the surrounding communities. Park Forest is also home to the Central Park Wetlands, a 90-acre park site that sits in the very center of the community, several parks (including a dog park and a skateboarding park!), and Thorn Creek Nature Center.

Long-held community events include the Farmer’s Market, Main Street Nights, Park Forest Art Fair, and an annual Independence Day parade. The community also looks forward to the opening of the Aqua Center, a community pool.

For more information, visit www.villageofparkforest.com.