



Church of the Holy Family

Parish Profile

November 2023



Church of the Holy Family

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About the Church of the Holy Family

Located 35 miles south of Chicago, the Church of the Holy Family is a vibrant and diverse parish, rooted in the rich Anglican tradition, within the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

Embracing the Diversity of Holy Family - Drawing from 14 neighboring communities, our parish proudly reflects the values of the Episcopal Church. We embrace the phrase "All are Welcome," cherishing our diverse congregation. The blend of seasoned wisdom from long-term members and the boundless energy of our children creates a community that is open, accepting, and full of life.

A Sanctuary Amidst Nature - Nestled within our beautiful parish grounds, designed by the renowned architect Edward Dart, our church stands as a symbol of refuge. Surrounded by an array of perennials, native trees and shrubs, and a small columbarium, our space invites worship, while offering the opportunity for expansion. Our small 2-bedroom rectory located next door to the church offers a peaceful haven, whether for living, meetings, or as a respite for clergy.

Traditional Roots, Contemporary Spirit - Confirmed by our Congregational Assessment Tool, we cherish our traditional values. However, we seamlessly weave contemporary liturgy and music into our services. Our unwavering faith is at the core of everything we do, expressed through liturgy, music, Christian formation, and outreach.



Worshipping Together: Adapting to Change - Pre-pandemic, we gathered on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to accommodate diverse schedules and preferences. While we search for a rector, we hold a hybrid service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. As we grapple with the effects of the global pandemic, we eagerly look forward to the restoration of our pre-pandemic services and gatherings.



A Musical Haven Once Again – Music is not just a melody—it's the heartbeat of our spiritual journey. For many, it's the reason they first fell in love with our community. Our church's architecture serves as a natural amplifier for the soul-stirring hymns that fill our sacred space. Our church is not just a structure; it's a musical instrument. The acoustics were crafted to let the voices of a few fill the entire space, creating a transcendent experience for all who gather.

The challenges of the pandemic led to a temporary transition in our musical journey. Yet, our commitment to revive the music ministry remains unwavering. We recognize the profound impact music has on our worship experience and the spiritual vitality of our community.

Christian Formation for All Ages - From Sunday School during the service to adult group studies in the evening, we look to provide enriching Christian formation opportunities for all. More recently, we have offered a hybrid approach to our adult formation, ensuring accessibility for all.



Outreach: Extending Hands and Hearts -

At Holy Family, outreach is not just a mission; it's a way of life. From offerings to our food pantry and local schools to global connections with Southeast Mexico and the Diocese of Renk in Sudan, we actively engage with the wider community.

Community events, health fairs, "Ashes to Go" at the local train station, and acts of service are

woven into the fabric of our outreach. All are truly welcome.



Behind the Scenes: Holy Family's Parish Operations

At the heart of the Church of the Holy Family is a dedicated team of individuals, both lay and professional, working harmoniously to ensure the seamless functioning of our parish operations.

Staff Composition: Historically, the rector has held the role of the sole full-time staff member, providing spiritual guidance and leadership. Complementing this, we have part-time positions filled by an administrative assistant, music director, and sexton. Together, they collaborate closely with the rector and vestry to orchestrate the day-to-day operations.

Vestry and Leadership: Our Vestry is the guiding force behind the scenes, comprised of seven members and two wardens. This elected group meets monthly, ensuring that the collective vision is aligned with the mission of Holy Family. The treasurer, also elected by the Vestry, manages the disbursement of funds, maintaining financial stability.

Committees Steering the Ship: To address specific aspects of parish life, committees play a pivotal role. The Buildings & Grounds committee ensures the maintenance and enhancement of our physical space. The Endowment committee focuses on sustaining the long-term financial health of Holy Family. Finance, as another crucial committee, oversees the fiscal aspects, ensuring responsible financial stewardship.

Collaboration in Action: The success of Holy Family's operations lies in the collaborative spirit that permeates our community. Lay and professional staff work hand in hand, recognizing that each role is essential to the larger tapestry of our parish life.



Nurturing the Soul: Holy Family's Parish Ministries

These ministries play an integral role in shaping the character of Holy Family, fostering a sense of unity and purpose. They ensure that every member finds a meaningful way to contribute to our shared spiritual journey. Past and present, these ministries reflect our commitment to spiritual growth, communal support, and active engagement.

Present

Acolytes + Chalice Administrators: Guided by a sense of reverence, our Acolytes and Chalice Administrators play a crucial role in assisting during worship services.

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild diligently tends to the sacred spaces, ensuring that each element is thoughtfully prepared to enhance our worship.

Christian Education Leaders: Dedicated individuals lead our Christian Education efforts, fostering spiritual growth and understanding among our community members.

Communications & Technology Group: The Communications & Technology Group ensures our community stays connected, utilizing technology to enhance our worship and outreach.

Lay Pastoral Care: In times of joy and challenge, our Lay Pastoral Care team extends a supportive hand, embodying the love and compassion of our community.

Lectors and Evening Prayer Readers: Lectors and Evening Prayer Readers bring the sacred texts to life, offering moments of reflection and connection.

Men's Club: Fostering fellowship and camaraderie, the Men's Club brings together the male members of our community in shared activities and fundraising support.

Prayers of the People: A collective voice uplifts our hopes, dreams, and concerns through the Prayers of the People, creating a space for shared intentions.

Past

Bread Bakers: A labor of love, our Bread Bakers contributed to the sacrament, preparing the communion bread that unites us in a shared spiritual experience.

Choir: Our Choir enriched our worship experience, lifting hearts and spirits during our 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

St. Margaret's Guild: With a mission of service, St. Margaret's Guild engaged in acts of kindness and community outreach, embodying the spirit of Christian love.



A Journey Through Time: The History of Holy Family

1950-1958: Foundation and Growth

The seeds of Holy Family were sown in 1950 with the installation of its first Vicar. The inaugural service on July 30, 1950, marked the beginning of a spiritual journey. In 1952, the first building, now our beloved parish hall, stood as a testament to our growing community. Reverend Robert Ruffie, our second Vicar, ushered in progress with an addition to the original structure in 1953.

1958-1993: Building the Sanctuary

The dawn of a new era arrived in 1957 with the groundbreaking ceremony for our church. The new sanctuary opened its doors for the first time on Christmas Eve, 1958. Reverend Ruffie faithfully served for over 38 years until his retirement in January 1993, leaving an indelible mark on Holy Family.

1993-2011: A Period of Transition

Father Wayne Carlson took the reins in November 1993, leading the congregation through a new chapter. His tenure, marked by dedication and service, spanned until his retirement in June 2011.

2002: A Milestone in Ministry

February 2002 witnessed a historic moment as Reverend Elizabeth Lloyd was ordained as the first Deacon called from the parish. Her multifaceted role, from scheduling Communion bread bakers to contributing to the Prayers of the People, enriched the spiritual tapestry of Holy Family.

2013-2015: Embracing Change

In November 2013, Reverend Rachael Gregory embarked on a journey as the third rector. Although her tenure was brief, her impact was profound. Her resignation in March 2015 led to her retirement.

2016-2021: A New Chapter Unfolds

The Very Reverend Johnnette Shane assumed leadership in April 2016 as the fourth rector. Her inaugural Eucharist marked the beginning of a chapter characterized by spiritual growth and community engagement. The culmination of her service came in May 2021 when she retired, leaving a legacy that continues to shape the identity of Holy Family.

As we reflect on our history, we acknowledge the dedication of each leader and the collective journey that has shaped the Church of the Holy Family. Today, we carry forward the torch of faith, embracing the past while stepping into an ever-evolving future.



Calling Our Next Rector: A Visionary Leader Wanted

The Church of the Holy Family is looking for a passionate and visionary priest to lead us into the next chapter of our spiritual journey. We seek an individual who can weave new and fresh ideas into our timeless traditions, fostering growth in our spiritual life and worship.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Spiritual Visionary:**
 - ♦ Develop a clear vision for the spiritual life and worship of Holy Family.
 - ♦ Introduce innovative ideas to lead us toward spiritual growth while respecting our traditional roots.
 - ♦ Guide us in effective Christian formation and play a pivotal role in rebuilding our music ministry.
- **Community Builder:**
 - ♦ Share in our enthusiasm to build connections within our community.
 - ♦ Foster an inclusive environment where all feel welcomed and valued.
- **Stewardship Advocate:**
 - ♦ Actively support planning related to the stewardship of our congregation's talents and financial resources.
 - ♦ Provide guidance on responsible financial management to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of our church.
- **Pastoral Care and Lay Leadership Development:**
 - ♦ Strengthen pastoral care by identifying, mentoring, and developing lay leaders from within our congregation.
 - ♦ Cultivate a sense of community through active engagement in parish ministries.
- **Administrative Excellence:**
 - ♦ Share the gift of administration by guiding and supporting both staff and lay leaders.
 - ♦ Manage our renters effectively, ensuring harmonious relationships and responsible use of our facilities.

How to Apply:

To be part of our wonderful community, interested candidates are asked to complete the diocese's Clergy Information Form for Transitions found on the diocesan website. Questions about the application process should be directed to the Rev. J. Sierra Reyes, Canon for Ministry.

Canon Reyes can be reached at jsreyes@episcopalchicago.org.

Our Goals for the Future

Through our congregational evaluation, we have pinpointed 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 support the ministry of the church financially.
- Find more effective ways to **reach out to the community** in which we are located.



Financials

2022 ACTUAL 2023 BUDGET		
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INCOME		
Envelope Income	\$75,083.36	\$69,708
Other Income*	\$64,740.79	\$77,992
TOTAL INCOME	\$139,824.15	\$147,700
EXPENSES		
Diocesan Pledge	\$6,525.96	\$7,500
Good Works	\$-	\$800
Worship	\$11,217.86	\$4,350
Formation	\$104	\$200
Operating	\$61,034.97	\$48,900
Staff	\$16,835.05	\$124,302
Miscellaneous	\$-	\$-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$95,717.84	\$186,052

** Other income includes seasonal offerings, interest income, rental agreements, and endowment account income.*

About The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago is geographically and culturally expansive. The diocese spans about half the area of Illinois, stretching from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River, from the Wisconsin border nearly to St. Louis. Our 119 congregations are found in the city of Chicago, in the suburbs of Chicagoland, other Illinois cities like Peoria, Aurora, and Rockford, and many rural settings across the state.

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago encompasses congregational vitality initiatives such as The College for Congregational Development, established Episcopal college ministries throughout the state, and a strong commitment to social witness, as expressed through the work of Episcopal Charities and Community Services, the social outreach arm of the diocese.

Our diocese is led by the Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, thirteenth Bishop of Chicago.



Discover Park Forest: Our Vibrant Community



Somonauk Park, Village of Park Forest Facebook page

Nestled in the heart of Park Forest, the Church of the Holy Family is proud to call this unique village home. Originally designed as a haven for World War II veterans, Park Forest has blossomed into a diverse and thriving community, embracing a rich history and a promising future.

Demographics: As of the 2020 census, Park Forest is home to 21,687 residents, reflecting a vibrant blend of racial and socio-economic diversity. Sixty-nine percent of the population identifies as Black or African American, 21.8% identify as White, and 8.3% as Hispanic/Latino – creating a rich mosaic of cultural experiences.

Arts and Culture Hub: Park Forest is a cultural oasis, offering an array of artistic experiences. From the Illinois Theatre Center to the Freedom Hall Performing Arts Theatre, the village pulses with creativity. The Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra finds its home here, adding symphonic richness to our community.

Recreational and Scenic Gems: Our community takes pride in the Central Park Wetlands, a 90-acre natural haven at the heart of Park Forest. Numerous parks, including a dog park and a skateboarding park, cater to diverse interests. The Thorn Creek Nature Center provides an opportunity to connect with nature, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship. The local public library serves as a cultural hub, hosting regular events for both youth and adults. Park Forest's commitment to the arts and education enriches the lives of its residents and neighboring communities.

Lively Community Events: Park Forest comes alive with events such as the Farmer's Market, Main Street Nights, and the cherished annual Independence Day parade. Residents eagerly anticipate the opening of the Aqua Center, a community pool promising refreshing summer escapes.

Explore villageofparkforest.com to discover our community.