

# ***Holy Family***

## ***Episcopal Church***



### **2023 Profile**

**The Search for Our Next Vicar**



***Half Moon Bay***  
***California***



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## Welcome to Holy Family!

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The Episcopal mission of [Holy Family Episcopal Church](#) in Half Moon Bay, California, is seeking to call our sixth priest. We hope this profile will give you a snapshot of who we are. The words in blue are links to our website, where you can learn more about us.

Please visit [our website](#) to learn about the [mission, history, values](#) of Holy Family. For more information about the Diocese of California and Province VIII, in which Holy Family resides, please visit [diocal.org](#).



We are a small and welcoming church family that includes retired people and working folks, single people and couples, some lesbian, gay, and bi folk, and a network of friendships that reaches well beyond the walls of the church. We strive to practice “All Are Welcome Here.”



We pride ourselves on being a safe harbor for all to seek, to rest, and to be. Our parishioners are cradle Episcopalians, former members of other denominations, people without previous faith affiliation, and seekers. We bring diverse experiences to worship and to support each other on our journey to know God.





## Leadership, Staff, and Volunteers

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Our Vicar is the only paid staff member for the church. The Children's Center's paid staff includes the director, five teachers, and one teacher's aide.

Our parishioners work side-by-side and with our Vicar to:

- Act as treasurer.
- Oversee Holy Family Children's Center.
- Lead our music.
- Play instruments.
- Represent us at deanery meetings and annual convention.
- Maintain the buildings and grounds.
- Pitch in to set up and break down before and after church events.
- Coordinate office administration.
- Serve on our nine-seat Bishop's Committee.

**“Holy Family  
feels like home.  
These people are  
my family.”**

## **We are ready for renewal.**

The past couple of years have brought restored energy as we emerge from the pandemic and catch up on deferred maintenance of our church home.

We look forward to weaving together our vision of Holy Family's future with a new Vicar's gifts and passions to plan our course together. Please set our hearts on fire for God. We want you to love us and feel at home with us.



Our vision includes:

- Exploring part-time administrative support instead of relying on our vicar and lay volunteers.
- Exploring a part-time musician to play on Sunday mornings and to support our choir.
- Strengthening the relationship between our preschool and the church.
- Continuing to build our relationships with the Coastside Jewish Community and Coastside Lutheran Church, with joint programs and events that benefit our congregations and the community.
- Exploring ways to physically strengthen our big red barn while at the same time looking for ways to better utilize this key asset. We dream of one day building a new sanctuary.



# Finances

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The finances of Holy Family are managed by the Treasurer in close dialogue and communication with the Bishop’s Committee. Four items are significant in our financials and will be helpful for you to understand the underlying financial condition of the church:

1. A significant monetary stream is from monthly shared costs paid by the Holy Family Children’s Center for the use of church facilities.

2. Our Vicar’s salary and benefits were shared under the terms of area ministry with Good Shepherd, which we foresee discontinuing. Going forward we anticipate maintaining a relationship with them but not sharing clergy.

3. Holy Family is the owner of a \$43,000 capital projects fund. This is a restricted fund and is not part of the stated cash balance in the checking account.

4. Holy Family has no mortgage.

## 2023 Annual Budget

### Income

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Total Designated Contributions	18,000
Total General Contributions	71,536
Ministries Contributions for Common Costs	24,000
Total User Fees	2,500
Total Fundraising Gross	19,000
HFCC Utilities and Grounds	10,677
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>145,713</b>

### Expenses

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Total Essentials	31,514
Total Salaries	68,647
Total Church Programs	1,200
Total Facilities and Office	31,500
Total Worship	3,150
Total Outreach	1,100
Total Fundraising	8,000
Inreach	200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>145,311</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>403</b>

“Our little church is small but mighty!”

# FUNdraising

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Our key **fund**raising activities are the Half moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival Ice Cream Booth and an annual fundraising dinner with silent auction. These two events, along with the annual stewardship campaign, form the backbone of our fundraising activities.

During the pandemic, these events did not take place, so we developed some micro-fundraising opportunities. Through the dedication and creativity of our parishioners we offered ...



Ken's Handcrafted Pandemic Vanilla



Handcrafted tote bags



Valentine's Day dinner for 23



Custom cakes (yes, that's a cake!)

... as well as Christmas ornament-making classes, holiday package-wrapping services, a See's Candies sale, and more.

As you can see, we welcome new ideas to ensure we meet our financial obligations. There is real pride at Holy Family in how much we are able to accomplish with our limited resources.



# Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival



The Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival is both a ministry and a major annual fundraiser for Holy Family. Each (non-pandemic) October, Holy Family and other nonprofits on the coast serve pumpkin-infused food and drink at the festival. Holy Family sells pumpkin ice cream and bottled water to thousands of visitors during the two-day festival. The festival in 2023 was the 51st.



# Annual Coastside Community Backpack Drive

Each summer, Holy Family spearheads the annual backpack drive. (Backpack drive funds are not part of our annual budget; 100% of drive donations are allocated to purchase school supplies.)

We work with other local churches and nonprofits to provide new backpacks filled with school supplies to Coastside children whose families cannot afford to purchase them.

In 2023, we gave away a record 521 new backpacks full of school supplies to children in need. It costs roughly \$60 to create a filled backpack for each child.



# Holy Family Children's Center

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We won't expect our new vicar to oversee our preschool, but it will be necessary to attend advisory board meetings at least bimonthly and to attend parent orientation, the back-to-school picnic, and other larger events throughout the year. It is important to show our preschool families that HFCC is a part of Holy Family Episcopal Church.

We expect our Vicar to meet quarterly with the preschool advisory board president (a church member) and the school's director to understand what's happening at the school and to provide some spiritual guidance and oversight. And, critically, lead chapel on a regular basis.

To learn more about HFCC, please visit [hfchmb.org](http://hfchmb.org).



# Coastside Jewish Community

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In 1995, we offered to share our sanctuary and sacristy with the Coastside Jewish Community. CJC is an evolving congregation spiritually guided by Rabbi Moshe Heyn and Sheli'ach Tzibur (service leader) Lissin. Before the pandemic, CJC held Shabbat services in the Sanctuary twice a month. They are slowly building back, too. Our sanctuary also serves as the home of CJC's beautiful handmade ark, which sometimes houses CJC's Torah.

CJC is an inclusive community of people from a wide range of Jewish and other backgrounds. In keeping with the style and spirit of the Coastside, CJC offers programs accessible to all. The CJC liturgy, music, and ritual practice draw deeply from Judaism's rich spiritual heritage while infusing tradition with new meaning.

To learn more about CJC, visit [coastsidejewishcommunity.org](http://coastsidejewishcommunity.org)



## Challenges We Face

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### Attendance

Like most American churches, average Sunday attendance at Holy Family was profoundly affected by the pandemic, but we are rebounding. Our summer 2023 average has been in the mid- to high twenties.



### Stewardship

Holy Family saw a slight downward trend through the middle of the pandemic. In 2019, we had 28 pledging units; for 2023, we have 26 pledging units. Recent visitors have asked about church membership, so we're hoping to get back to—and surpass—our 2019 units.

The decrease in pledging units was somewhat offset by the per-unit giving rate, which continues to remain high, even relative to other congregations in the Diocese of California.

### Our Church Home

Our buildings are aging and need loving care. Thanks to a couple of large donations and knowing how to stretch a dollar, we are completing some long-deferred maintenance on our property.

“We have a positive impact on our community beyond our size. We punch way above our weight!”



## Our New Vicar

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Holy Family is looking for a half-time Vicar who will be a member of our church family, who will walk with us, cry with us, and laugh with us. We want to grow our parish family, which will help us better serve each other and the community at large. We hope you will understand, embrace, and thrive in our laid-back, come-as-you-are Coastside culture.

Our ideal Vicar will bring the following talents, attitudes, and skills:

### Ministerial

- We tend to be inspired by contemporary language such as EOW and other approved resources. Please know that we seek a serious engagement with scripture and the world, yet we are comfortable with a casual style of worship.

- Be accountable first to God, then to our members and our mission statement.

- Be humble before God and recognize that your spiritual journey is a shared journey with us.

- Preach the Gospel with passion, articulating the meaning of the lessons to us in a way that is thoughtful, engaging, and invokes the Holy Spirit.

- Lead chapel for Holy Family Children's Center.

- Consider music an integral part of services. We draw on a range of music, including *Wonder, Love, and Praise*; *Voices Found*; *LEVAS*; and other music.

- Minister and comfort the sick, dying, and bereaved.

### Leadership and Administrative

- With the wardens, be able to lead the Bishop's Committee to consider bold and new ideas for solving problems and meeting goals.

- Engage in pertinent social and civic meetings and events in Half Moon Bay,

including CoastPride Multifaith Partners and our local interfaith council.

- Be able to discern the qualities necessary and desirable in selecting (or nominating) our members for leadership positions.

- Maintain regular office hours at our Holy Family campus. Not all hours must be performed on campus, but we'd like to know that we'll see you on a regular basis.

- Have strong organizational skills.

### What our new Vicar can expect from Holy Family

Our new Vicar will find a small, loving, and welcoming church with a strong membership. We will strive to nurture you in your walk with God. We will support you by being open to the leadership and changes that can make growth more likely. Our lay leadership is willing and eager to dream and act to achieve our shared vision for the future of Holy Family.

As a place of worship for more than 50 years, we are rooted in tradition but we are also open to trying new ways of doing things. We will never say, "But that's how we've always done it." If we do, please call us on it!

While it would be ideal for our Vicar to live on the Coastside, we understand the realities of living in the Bay Area. While it would be nice for our priest to live locally, it's definitely not a requirement.

## Before you go, we thought you should know ...

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Half Moon Bay and the surrounding community faced two tragedies at the start of the year, both of them superimposed on the COVID-19 pandemic that has reshaped our world: a season of severe winter storms and a mass shooting. Both tragedies continue to reverberate in Holy Family's spiritual life.

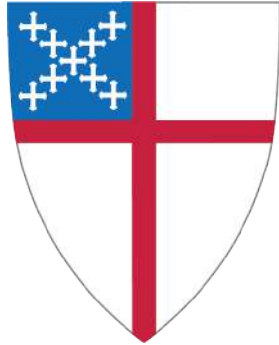
The first crisis was brought on by an unprecedented series of winter storms that caused extensive flooding and damage to many homes, buildings, and roads, inundated agricultural fields, and felled trees. The flooding was disruptive for many on the Coastside in part because of the extensive agriculture around Half Moon Bay. Holy Family property was damaged; most significantly, the roof of the main building was battered extensively and fences on the church property's perimeter toppled. A number of beautiful old trees came down during the storms. Fortunately, insurance covered repair costs, and most of the recovery work has been completed. In addition to enduring the impact on church property, members of Holy Family's congregation experienced personal disruptions because of the storms, including some temporary displacement because of damaged homes and property. We are all experiencing a deepened appreciation for the destructive and creative forces of nature, heightening our awareness of our call to be responsible for our living environment and loving stewards of "this fragile earth, our island home."

The second tragedy occurred on Jan. 23, when mass shootings took the lives of seven Coastside residents. This act of gun violence wrenched the community out of its sense of comfort. Grief, fear, and anger continue to reverberate within the community in response to the shootings. Life on the Coastside has been changed in ways that are still being revealed. Holy Family played a key role in an inter-religious prayer vigil the day after the shootings as well as in the days that followed as the community gathered to mourn, to remember, to pray, to support one another in community, and to reflect on how to respond to the hidden suffering that was revealed in the aftermath. The mass shootings exposed the often substandard housing for farm workers.

Combined with the pandemic and the severe winter weather, the shootings caused profound difficulties for the agricultural community. Those of us who were previously unfamiliar with this community's needs have felt the wound to our communal sense of pride. The Coastside that we thought we knew—a friendly, neighborly, communal environment—has been rocked to its core. For many, this has been an experience of the biblical metaphor of "scales falling from one's eyes." Out of this tragedy has come a deepened commitment to improve housing options for the poor and other vulnerable populations. This focus on housing continues to drive many in Half Moon Bay, including the Holy Family community, and it likely will continue to do so for years to come.

**The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus**  
Bishop of the Diocese of California  
**The Rev. Austin K. Rios**  
Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of California  
**The Very Rev. Debra Low-Skinner**  
Canon to the Ordinary

**Ken Myers**  
Senior Warden  
**Sara Hayden**  
Junior Warden



**Holy Family Episcopal Church**  
1590 South Cabrillo Highway  
PO Box 215  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
[holyfamilyhmb.org](http://holyfamilyhmb.org)  
650-726-0506

Information about the Diocese of California, including the search for a new bishop, can be found at [diocal.org](http://diocal.org).

