



Solar Power is coming to Holy Family!

What will this project consist of?

The project will install 1,056 photovoltaic/solar panels at Holy Family. This will be a 185 kilowatt system, which is approximately 50 times the size of the average residential system. This system will generate an estimated 275,000 kilowatt hours of electricity each year, which equates to roughly two-thirds of the electricity used at the Holy Family Parish & School buildings each year.

Where will the solar panels be located?

420 panels will be placed on the roof of the Community Center. The remainder of the panels will be mounted on structures located in the main parking lot behind the Church, at the edge of Murphy's Meadow, and at the edge of the field behind the school. No parking spaces will be lost due to the project.

Why are we undertaking this project?

This is the Diocese of San Jose's Solar Energy Initiative, which is part of the Catholic Green Initiative of Santa Clara County. The Initiative is intended to encourage the wise use, stewardship, and protection of the earth's resources - gifts entrusted to us by God.

Are other Parishes involved in this program?

Yes, Holy Family is one of six sites in Phase 1 of the Diocese's Solar Energy Initiative. The other sites are St. Lucy's, St. Christopher's, Queen of Apostles, Holy Spirit, and Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Other sites will be evaluated as part of Phase 2.

How much is this project costing Holy Family?

There is no cost to Holy Family. The solar system will be constructed, owned, and maintained by Perpetual Energy Systems, LLC, a company that partners with entities such as the Diocese to develop renewable solar energy systems. Holy Family and the other parishes will function as the "hosts" for the systems. This is similar to the program whereby solar systems were recently installed at many of the schools within the San Jose Unified School District.

Will Holy Family save money on its electric bills?

Yes. The Diocese has signed a contract with Perpetual Energy Systems for the purchase of electricity at a price that is lower than that charged by PG&E. For Holy Family, the first year reduction in electric costs is estimated to exceed \$4,000. Over 25 years, the savings to Holy Family are projected to exceed \$600,000. In essence, these savings are a form of “payment” to Holy Family for hosting the solar system at our facilities.

When will construction of the project begin?

We anticipate that construction will commence within the next couple of weeks.

How long will construction last?

The entire construction period is expected to be approximately one month in length.

Will the main parking lot be open during construction?

Yes. However, the 2nd row of parking to the south of the driveway will be temporarily fenced-off and unavailable during construction. After construction is complete, this area will be reopened and there will be no loss of parking spaces.

Will the placement of solar panels in the parking lot adversely impact the Parish Festival?

No. The panels have been located so as to not affect the area used for the Parish Festival.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns?

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(Holy Family’s Solar Carport will look *similar* to this one).

