

Dubuque Area West Pastorate

A mission-focused collaboration of the Catholic parishes of: **Church of the Nativity, Church of the Resurrection, St. Anthony and St. Joseph the Worker.**



Rev. Michael Schueller, Pastor

I am a native of Dubuque (St. Anthony), having attended parochial school in Dubuque (St. Anthony & Wahlert) and graduating from Loras College in December 1991. I taught high school briefly (Senior High School) before discerning my vocation to the priesthood and attending St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, and was ordained a priest on May 24, 1997. I spent three years as an associate at St. Joseph in Mason City (1997-2000), six and one-half years as pastor in some small parishes west of Mason City (Garner, Duncan, Britt, Forest City, Lake Mills, and Buffalo Center), as well as teaching and being spiritual director at Newman Catholic in Mason City. I completed an MS degree in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola College (now University) in Baltimore (2007-2009). When I returned to the Archdiocese, I was named pastor of Holy Family Parish in Mason

City and Sacred Heart Parish in Manly, Iowa, and worked as a counselor for Catholic Charities in Mason City. In July 2012, I became pastor of the parishes of the St. Elizabeth Pastorate in central Dubuque County (Bankston, Epworth, Farley, Peosta & Placid), staying there until I was transferred to my current assignment in the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate (Cascade, Fillmore, Garryowen, & Temple Hill) in July 2025.



Rev. Mark Murphy, Parochial Vicar

I am a native of Marion, IA, having attended St. Joseph Catholic School and Regis High School. I then studied engineering, graduating from Iowa State in 2002. After graduation, I served in the military for five years before entering St. Pius X Seminary at Loras College in the Fall of 2008. From there, I attended the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, and was ordained a priest on June 28, 2014, at the Cathedral of St. Raphael. After ordination, I spent two years as an associate pastor at Resurrection in Dubuque (2014-2016), 2 years as a pastor of the parishes of Holy Rosary Cluster (Alta Vista, Elma, Lourdes, New Haven, & Riceville; 2016-2018), and approximately four years as pastor of St. Jude in Cedar Rapids (2018-2022). In July 2022, I began my current assignment as Chaplain at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center in Cedar Falls, near

the campus of the University of Northern Iowa, and as Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. As I return to Dubuque, I will continue to serve as Vocation Director for the Archdiocese while also serving as parochial vicar for the parishes of the Dubuque West pastorate.



Rev. Brian Dellaert, Parochial Vicar

I was born in the Quad Cities and raised in Dubuque, where I attended St. Anthony School and Wahlert High School. After graduating from Franciscan University in 2001, I began seminary studies at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. I was ordained to the priesthood on June 25, 2005. I first served in parishes as an associate located in Cedar Rapids (St. Jude), Garner, Duncan, Britt, Forest City, Lake Mills, and Buffalo Center. I served as a pastor in Norway, Van Horne, Newhall, Watkins, and Blairstown. In 2016, I completed a degree in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Upon returning, I served as pastor in New Hampton, Ionia, and North Washington and as a judge for the Metropolitan Tribunal. Most recently, I have served as pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Dubuque, since 2022 and as judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Dubuque since 2023.



Rev. Peter Jia, Parochial Vicar

I was born and raised in Taiyuan, China. In 2017, I graduated from Shaanxi Catholic Seminary and was ordained as a priest on May 12, 2018. After a three-month internship at a parish, I was assigned as Deputy Director of the Diocesan Office, responsible for the security of church real estate and for celebrating the sacraments for local parishes from 2018 to 2021. In August of 2021, I came to the United States and received a year of English as a Second Language instruction at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Milwaukee, WI. Then, I attended a year of the Intensive English Language Institute at Divine Word College and Seminary in Epworth. In 2023, I moved to Collegeville, Minnesota, where I have just graduated with a Master's degree in Theological Studies in Liturgy from the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. In January of

2026, I started serving in Tama, Belle Plaine, and Chelsea as a parochial vicar.



Rev. Martin Obeng, Parochial Vicar

I was born and raised in Ghana. I completed my seminary formation and theological studies at St. Peter's Regional Seminary in Cape Coast, Ghana, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 2014. After ordination, I served as secretary to my bishop in Ghana for a year before departing for Italy to pursue canonical studies. I earned my master's degree in Canon Law (J.C.L.) from the St. Pius X Faculty of Canon Law in Venice, Italy, in 2018. Thereafter, I continued my studies at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, where I obtained my doctorate in Canon Law (J.C.D.) in 2021. While in Italy, I also served as chaplain for the Ghanaian community in the diocese of Vicenza and assisted the Italian parish that hosted me during my 6-year stay. I joined the Archdiocese of Dubuque in June 2021 and was assigned to the Spires of Faith Cluster. In July 2022, I was

reassigned to St. Joseph Key West, Dubuque, and Holy Family, New Melleray Parishes. I have also served as a judge for the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Dubuque since July 2022.