

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.**



Deacon Bill Biver

I am a native of Dubuque having attended Sacred Heart School, Wahlert High School, and graduating from Loras College with a B.S. degree in Physics/Math in 1970. I then graduated from the University of Michigan with an M.S. degree in electrical engineering. I spent the next 40 years as a licensed Professional Engineer, designing numerous laboratory, medical, and industrial products, three of which were patented. In 2011, I retired from Mercy Medical Center, having served as the Director of Clinical Engineering.

My wife Sue and I have been married for 56 years. We have 7 adult children (1 deceased), 17 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren (1 deceased).

For the first 25 of my 40 years since ordination to the permanent diaconate in 1986, I was assigned to St. Columbkille Parish in Dubuque. In 2011-present, I was additionally assigned to St. Joseph the Worker (SJTW) Parish. From 2014-2019, I was additionally employed by SJTW as their Pastoral Care/Social Justice Coordinator. From February-July 2026, I've served as the Pastoral Administrator pro temp at the Church of the Nativity in Dubuque.

My diaconal ministry has included assisting/preaching at Mass, baptizing, witnessing marriage, conducting wake services/funerals, teaching baptism classes, assisting with marriage preparation and annulments, serving on Social Justice/Sister Parish Committees, in the Jail and Prison Ministry, and in ministries of healing and evangelization.



Deacon Mike Ellis

Deacon Mike Ellis is a native from Glenview IL. I attended parochial schools at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Glenview, IL and Loyola Academy High School Wilmette, IL. I received my Bachelor of Arts in theology and my Masters Certificate in Pastoral Ministry at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN. I have worked in ministry since graduating college at St. Peter's Catholic Church, St. Cloud, MN, St. Theodore Church Albert Lea, MN and Twin Lakes, MN and Resurrection Church, Dubuque, IA. I also served as the National TEC Executive Director. I was ordained to the Diaconate for the Diocese of Winona - Rochester on August 5, 2005. I was incardinated as a Deacon in Archdiocese of Dubuque in 2022. I am married to my wife Sue and have three grown children Luke, Claire and Samuel and just recently welcomed our first grandchild Marianna Reina Ellis.



Deacon William Hickson

I am a native of Otter Creek and attended St. Lawrence Grade School there. I then attended Marquette High School in Bellevue and then Loras College. I became an elementary teacher, serving for 12 years at Resurrection. After getting a master's degree in education from Clarke College, I served for 12 years as principal at St. Joseph School at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. I worked at Shalom Retreat Center for six years and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque in Jail and Prison Ministry for 17 years before retiring. I continue serving as a volunteer for Catholic Charities.



Deacon Jeff Lampe

By way of introduction, my wife, son and I were all born in Southern California but made our way to the beautiful city of Dubuque in July of 2020 as part of a job transfer. We were blessed enough to meet Father Phil Gibbs when we arrived in Iowa, and have been members of the Resurrection community ever since. Some of the ministries with which our family has been involved include Middle School Faith Formation, Scouting and serving as either Readers or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you, as well as to get to know you and your families better in the coming days.



Deacon John Robbins

My wife, Sadie, is a Dubuque native. She was baptized at St. Joe the Worker, and her parents joined Resurrection parish in the mid-1980s. I grew up in Monmouth, IL, which is roughly 45 minutes south of the Quad Cities. Sadie and I met at St. Ambrose and moved to Dubuque shortly after our engagement. We've been married for 18 years and have been parishioners at Resurrection. This fall, our daughter, Stella, will be a sophomore at Wahlert. Our older son, David, will be in seventh grade at Mazzuchelli, and our younger son, Jonah, will be in fifth grade at Resurrection, where Sadie is the lead teacher of the five-hour Pre-K program. I earned a degree in business marketing from St. Ambrose and worked in sales, marketing, and graphic

design before joining the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in 2010. After serving in several communications roles, I became the Archdiocesan Director of Communications in 2015. I was ordained to the diaconate with Deacon Brian Zeman and our nine classmates in 2019. I'm a connoisseur of classic rock, root for the Cubs and Packers, enjoy the comedy of Jim Gaffigan and Nate Bargatze, and like to grill and do yard work. My favorite ministry opportunity outside of the parish has been leading Word Services at the county jail, a ministry organized by Deacon Bill Biver. Sadie and the kids share my openness to building new relationships in our pastorate while finding ways to strengthen those that have meant so much to us. I'll do my best to die to myself in service to you and to journey with you so that together we experience the joy of the Resurrection.



Deacon Michael Timmerman

I was raised in Menominee, Illinois and spent most of my years in East Dubuque. I graduated from East Dubuque High School in 1981 and worked for many years in Dubuque in flooring and home improvement. My longest time at a job was at the Floor Show as a flooring salesman. I was Ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Rockford in 2014 and have served in a number of parishes in Northern Illinois before returning to the area. I've spent the last four years at Nativity and I work as a Spiritual Coordinator for Hospice of Dubuque. My wife, Dee Dee, is one of the secretaries for the new Pastorate and we have 6 children, the two youngest are still at home.



Deacon Steve Whiteman

I grew up in central Illinois as a Lutheran. Christy and I have been married for 38 years and we have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. I was confirmed at Resurrection in 1999 and ordained in 2013. I have been assigned to The Church of the Nativity since my ordination and involved in several different ministries. I will retire from John Deere after 36 years in September of this year.



Deacon Brian Zeman

I was born and raised in Wisconsin, growing up in Sauk City (home of the first Culver's Restaurant), but have lived in Dubuque for the past 37 years. Although not a "Dubuquer," I did marry a Dubuquer, so that gives me honorary status... I hope. My lovely bride is Jennifer Zeman (Gartner). Together, we have five children, Alyssa, Zach, AJ, Adam, and Mallory, and nine grandchildren.

For the past 32 years, Jen and I have been, and still are, members of St. Anthony parish; prior to that, we were members of the Church of the Resurrection. I spent three decades working as a Sales Manager for OnMedia Advertising, a division of Mediacom, but for the last five years, I have been employed by the Archdiocese. There, I have served as the Director of Our Faith STO (School Tuition Organization), the Director of Catholic Social Teaching, and now the Director of Evangelization. Outside of work, my hobbies include hunting deer and turkey and cheering on the Green Bay Packers. As a deacon, I've been the Lector Coordinator for St. Anthony while also serving with St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus. Jen and I have also handled marriage preparation for the last three years. Welcoming new people into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism is one of my favorite deacon duties. After seven years as an ordained deacon, I am still awestruck when I assist at the altar, having a front-row seat to the presence of Christ, but I also enjoy being his hands and feet, offering a welcoming smile, and I look forward to meeting many new faces in our pastorate.