



CIRCLE OF SAINTS CIRCULO DE SANTOS

ST. PATRICK, TAMA • ST. JOSEPH, CHELSEA • ST. MICHAEL, BELLE PLAINE

Office

900 Park St, Tama, IA 52339
(641) 484-3039

Monday - Thursday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

St. Michael Office

1302 9th Ave
Belle Plaine, IA 52208
(319) 444-3106

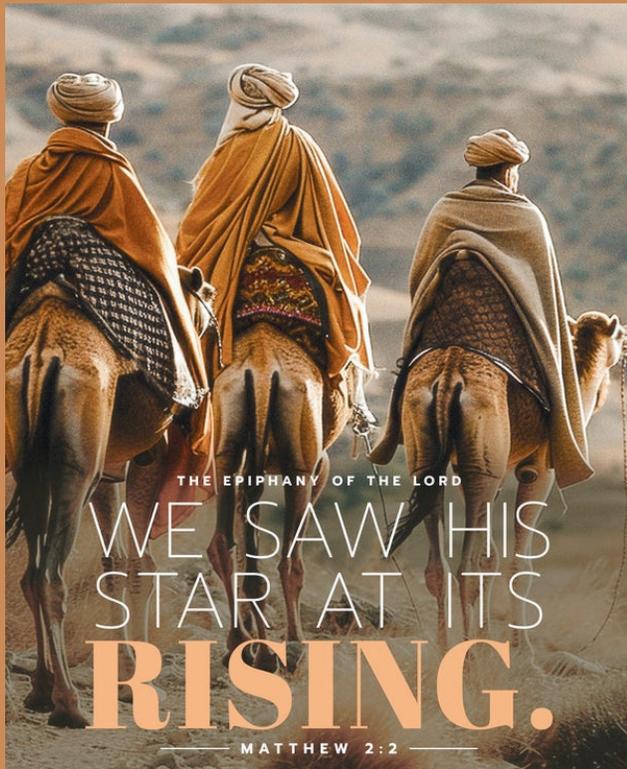
Wednesday & Thursday
8 AM - 3 PM

Our Mission

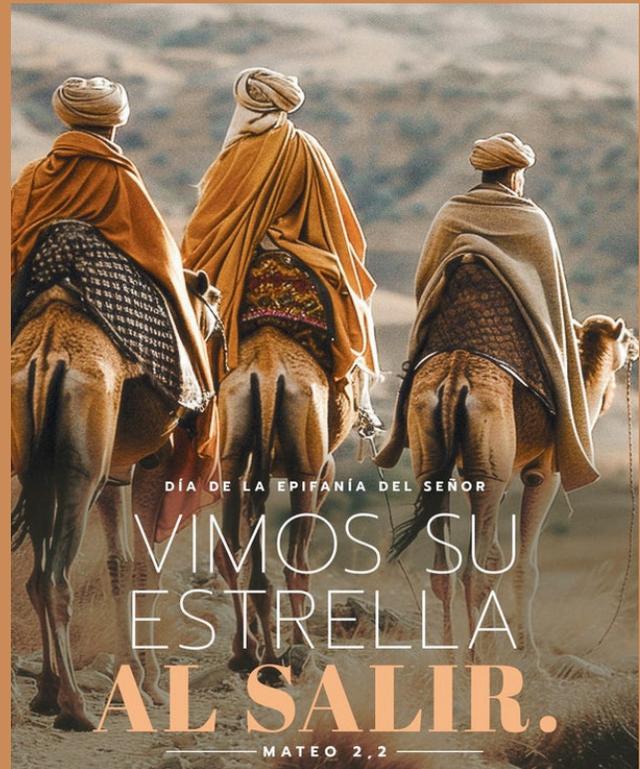
We are here to form spirit - filled missionary disciples of Jesus Christ for the Glory of God.

Nuestra Misión

Estamos aquí para formar discípulos misioneros de Jesucristo llenos del espíritu para la gloria de Dios



JANUARY 4, 2026



EL 4 DE ENERO DEL 2026

What is the Solemnity of the Epiphany?

On this feast, the Church celebrates the manifestation (epiphany) of Christ to the Nations (Gentiles) in the persons of the Magi – also known as the Wise Men or the Three Kings. In earlier times, this feast combined two other manifestations: one that took place at the Lord's Baptism and one that took place in Cana at the wedding feast. This is still the custom in Eastern Christianity. Although the date of the Epiphany on the General Calendar of the Church is January 6, in the United States and some other countries it is celebrated on the Sunday after January 1 so more Catholics can participate. Thus, in 2026 the Solemnity of the Epiphany is Sunday, January 4.

¿Cuál es la solemnidad de la Epifanía?

En esta fiesta, la Iglesia celebra la manifestación (epifanía) de Cristo a las Naciones (gentiles) en las personas de los Magos – también conocidos como los Reyes Magos. En tiempos anteriores, esta fiesta combinaba otras dos manifestaciones: una que tenía lugar en el Bautismo del Señor y otra que tenía lugar en Caná durante la boda. Esta sigue siendo la costumbre en el cristianismo oriental. Aunque la fecha de la Epifanía en el calendario general de la Iglesia es el 6 de enero, en Estados Unidos y algunos otros países se celebra el domingo después del 1 de enero para que más católicos puedan participar. Así, en 2026 la solemnidad de la Epifanía es el domingo 4 de enero.

Welcome to Fr. Peter Jia!



We are happy to announce that Fr. Peter Jia (pronounced as “Cha”) will be serving as a Parochial Vicar for the Circle of Saints Cluster including St. Patrick in Tama, St. Michael in Belle Plaine, and St. Joseph in Chelsea beginning the weekend of January 10-11, 2026.

Fr. Peter is 35 years old and was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Taiyuan in China in 2018. He served as the Deputy Director of his Diocesan Office and was responsible for the security of church real estate and celebrating sacraments for local parishes. In 2021 he moved to the United States and received a year of English as a Second Language instruction at Sacred Heart Seminary in Milwaukee. He then attended a year of the Intensive English Language Institute at Divine Word Seminary in Epworth.

In 2021 Fr. Peter moved to Minnesota where he has just graduated with a Master’s degree of Theological Studies in Liturgy from the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s. Fr. Peter will spend the next year in the Archdiocese of Dubuque in parish ministry with an Optional Practical Training (OPT) visa to put into practice the new knowledge from his recent degree.

Fr. Peter has one younger sister and one younger brother, along with two nephews, who all live in China. He stays in contact with them frequently. His mother passed away in 2009. Father’s hobbies include bowling (which he learned during his time in Iowa) and he enjoys listening to music.

Fr. Peter is very eager to serve the people of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. He looks forward to providing sacraments, working with the youth, and walking with the sick. He finds joy in seeing and serving the needs of others.

During his time at our Cluster Deacon Stan Upham (Pastoral Administrator) will take care of day-to-day administrative decisions. Fr. Peter Jia will focus primarily on providing sacramental support and pastoral care. Fr. James Secora (Dean/Priest Supervisor) will provide any needed consultation to Deacon Stan Upham and Fr. Peter Jia.

Please welcome Fr. Peter!!

Reflection

The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star. It’s human nature to seek — to grow, to move, to reach beyond where we are. Even staying the same requires effort. When we stop seeking, we stop living. But the question is not whether we seek. It is what we seek. The Magi did not fully know what they were looking for. They were not prophets; they were simply people who listened to a voice deep within themselves and followed where it led. They trusted the journey. In the end, they found what we all truly seek — not riches or power, but meaning.

So ask yourself: of all the stars you could follow, which one does that quiet inner voice tell you to chase? Point to it. And go forth.

Parish News & Events

NO Baptism class for the month of January. Next class is scheduled for Saturday, February 7. Please call the St. Patrick parish office to sign up.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following 10:30 AM Mass at St. Patrick in Tama on Sunday, January 4. It is also available on Saturdays at **3:30 PM - 4:15 PM** (until Mass time) at St. Joseph in Chelsea.

St. Patrick food pantry collection is Sunday, January 4. Please bring your non-perishable food items and place them in the gathering space. Thank you.

CCW (Council of Catholic Women) quilting days will be Monday, January 5 and Tuesday, January 6 at 9 AM in the St. Patrick parish cafeteria. Alternative days in case of weather will be Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13.

CCW (Council of Catholic Women) regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6 at 1:30 PM in the St. Patrick parish cafeteria. Hostesses are Mary Kendall, Carol Weber, Deb Ellenbecker and Patty Kerns.

St. Michael Bible Study “The Chosen - Season 2” will be held on Thursdays, beginning January 8. It will be offered at 2:30 PM and 6:30 PM.

Confirmation Class will be on Sunday, January 11 at 3 PM - 6 PM at the St. Patrick parish library.

SJ/SM Knights food pantry collection is Sunday, January 11. Non-perishable food and paper goods only please. Items may be placed in the back of St. Michael.

SJ/SM Knight will be meeting Monday, January 12 at 7:30 PM in St. Michael parish hall.

St. Michael Men’s Group meets every Thursday at 6 AM at the parish hall. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Healing Hearts group (loss of spouse group) will be Thursday, January 15 at 12:30 PM at St. Patrick parish cafeteria. Bring your own beverage and an appetizer to share. Any questions call Mary Cibula at (641) 751-8467.

St. Patrick date night will be Sunday, January 18 at 5:30 PM in the parish cafeteria. Please RSVP for daycare at (641) 484-3646.



Virtual Women's' Conference

Saturday, January 31 at 8 AM - 1:30 PM

St. Michael Parish - Belle Plaine

Breakfast and door prizes!

Contact Carol Wonrau
at (319) 444-3106

for more information.

Please leave a message.



Staff

Pastor

Rev. Michael McAndrew
m.mcandrew@dbqarch.org

Deacons

Stan Upah

s.upah@dbqarch.org

Joe Behounek

Hispanic Ministry

Cynthia Guadiana
c.guadiana@dbqarch.org

Business Manager

Elizabeth Monat
dbq197bk@dbqarch.org

Project Manager

Carol Hibbs
c.hibbs@dbqarch.org

St. Michael Office Assistant

Carol Wonrau
c.wonrau@dbqarch.org

St. Patrick Pastoral Minister

Betty Hayek

January Special Anniversary Celebrations

Glen & Rebecca Cline (55)

January 80+ Birthday Celebration

Jan 06 - Betty Jean Upah
Jan 06 - Carolyn Walker
Jan 11 - Edward Kvapil
Jan 12 - MaryLou Blomme
Jan 18 - George Mohrfeld
Jan 19 - Paul Duffy
Jan 25 - Donna Beery
Jan 28 - Duane Holst

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Santa Isabel Ana Seton



"Put your heart at His
feet. It is the gift He
loves most."

"Pon tu corazón a sus
pies. Es el regalo que
más ama."

This Week

Saturday, January 3

St. Joseph - Chelsea

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Mass - † Ken Meier - Kraus

Sunday, January 4

St. Michael - Belle Plaine

8:30 AM Mass - † Joey & Darlene Breja

St. Patrick - Tama

10:30 AM Mass (English)

† Joseph & Julia Benda

12 PM Mass (Spanish) - † Pro Populo

Monday, January 5

Bulletin Submissions are due at 12 PM

St. Patrick - Tama

9 AM CCW Quilt Tying

Tuesday, January 6

St. Patrick - Tama

9 AM CCW Quilt Tying

1:30 PM CCW Meeting

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Adoration & Healing Prayer

6 PM St. Michael Family Prayer Night

Wednesday, January 7

St. Joseph - Chelsea

9 AM - 10 AM Adoration

Faith Formation (Preschool - 12th Grade)

6:45 PM - 8 PM St. Michael - Belle Plaine

6:45 PM - 8 PM St. Patrick - Tama

Thursday, January 8

St. Michael - Belle Plaine

9 AM - 3 PM Adoration

Friday, January 9

St. Patrick - Tama

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Adoration

STAY UP TO DATE

 cofsaints.org

 Circle of Saints

 Rev Michael McAndrew

TEXT FOR UPDATES

 Text COFSAINTS to 84576

 Texto SANTOS al (202) 765-3441

Thank our Advertiser of the WEEK



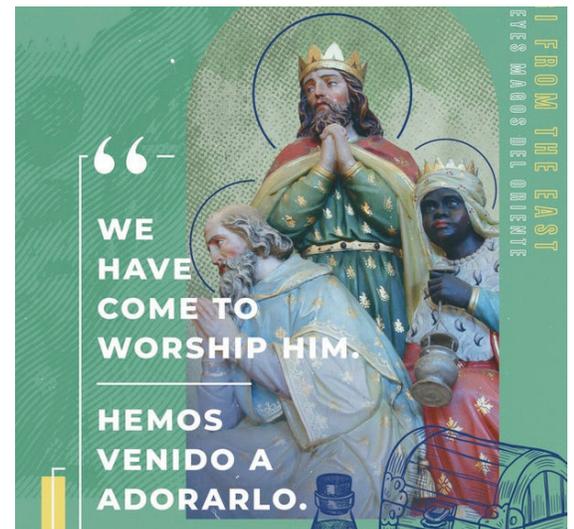
Find us at these two locations:
507 Iowa Ave W - Marshalltown
1001 S County Rd - Toledo

Pray for ...

Paula Eberhart, Dana Martin Kurovski, Rich Hookway, Shirley Delfs,
Jeff Dvorak, Scott Posusta, Onnaha Dvorak, Anthony Dvorak, John Gessner,
Shelbi Breja, Oliver Dvorak, Carol Walton, Matt Walton, Ted Sharer,
Kathy Bacino, Sharon Hosek, Nork White, Brett Houghton, Sally Mason,
Ryan Selken, Max Branecki, Dorothy Zmolek

*And anyone else suffering for any illness or injury including Veterans and the
currently deployed military and their families.*

Names will remain listed for three months. To add or renew a name, please
contact the Parish Office at [641] 484-3039.



Minister Schedule

The Baptism of the Lord

St. Joseph - Chelsea

Saturday, January 10 at 4:30 PM

✠ *Bob Kriener*

Lector: Ellen Upah

Eucharistic Minister: Deacon Joe Behounek, Sid Jedlicka, Ron Kratoska, Bob Howe

Hospitality Minister: Allen Kaufman, Shane Behounek

Altar Server: Hadley Kiebach, Wes Behounek

Gift Bearer: Dale & Julie Kasal

Money Counter: Sally Slaven, Randy Dvorak

St. Michael - Belle Plaine

Sunday, January 11 at 8:30 AM

✠ *Pro Populo*

Lector: Connie Drahos

Eucharistic Minister: Deb Chekal, Leo Hlas, Doug Johnson, Wayne Parizek

Hospitality Minister: Vince Barloon, Mike Fredericks

Altar Server: Isaac Argo, Jack Koch, Hayden Neuhaus

Money Counter: Julie Breja, Sherri Swarengin

St. Patrick - Tama

Sunday, January 11 at 8:30 AM

✠ *Pro Populo*

Lector: Connie Drahos

Eucharistic Minister: Elizabeth Ledvina, Barb Slagle, Christa Slagle, Marcelino Lux, Maria Lux, Luis M. Ordaz

Hospitality Minister: Tom Clancy, Joanne Wacha, Chuck Jindrich

Altar Server: Harper Feisel, Regina Soto

Money Counter: Micki Ferris, Mary Kendall, Mary Cibula

What is the Epiphany Blessing?

In years past, priests would often visit their parishioners during the Christmas season to bless their homes. Since this is virtually impossible for most priests today, someone in the family—ideally the father or head of household—sprinkles holy water in each room of the house and says a blessing prayer.

Normally, the house blessing is coupled with the blessing of the doorway. Some churches will provide parishioners with blessed chalk after the Epiphany Masses. Otherwise, the faithful can bring chalk to their parish, asking the priest to bless it.

With the blessed chalk, the priest or head of the household writes the year and the initials CMB above the door as illustrated for 2026:

20+C+M+B+26

The initials have two meanings. Historically, they refer to the names traditionally attributed to the Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Spiritually, they refer to the blessing itself, represented by the Latin prayer: “*Christus mansionem benedicat*” (May Christ bless this house); the crosses recall our salvation in Christ.

Bienvenido al Pd. Peter Jia!



Nos complace anunciar que el padre Peter Jia (pronunciado como "Cha") servirá como vicario parroquial para el Círculo de Santos, incluyendo San Patricio en Tama, San Miguel en Belle Plaine y San José en Chelsea a partir del fin de semana del 10 - 11 de enero del 2026.

El padre Peter tiene 35 años y fue ordenado sacerdote en la Arquidiócesis de Taiyuan en China en 2018. Ejerció como subdirector de su Oficina Diocesana y fue responsable de la seguridad de los bienes raíces de la iglesia y de la celebración de los sacramentos para las parroquias locales. En 2021 se mudó a Estados Unidos y recibió un año de instrucción de inglés como segundo lenguaje en el Seminario del Sagrado Corazón en Milwaukee. Luego asistió un año al Instituto Intensivo de Lenguaje Inglesa en el Seminario Divine Word en Epworth.

En 2021, el padre Peter se trasladó a Minnesota, donde acaba de graduarse con un máster en Estudios Teológicos en Liturgia por el Colegio de San Benedicto y San Juan. El padre Peter pasará el próximo año en la Arquidiócesis de Dubuque en ministerio parroquial con un visado de Formación Práctica Optativa (OPT) para poner en práctica los nuevos conocimientos de su reciente título.

El padre Peter tiene una hermana menor y un hermano menor, junto con dos sobrinos, que viven todos en China. Mantiene contacto con ellos con frecuencia. Su madre falleció en 2009. Los pasatiempos de su padre incluyen el bolinche (que aprendió durante su estancia en Iowa) y disfruta escuchando música.

El padre Peter está muy interesado en servir a la gente de la Arquidiócesis de Dubuque. Espera con ilusión ofrecer sacramentos, trabajar con los jóvenes y caminar con los enfermos. Encuentra alegría en ver y servir las necesidades de los demás.

Durante su estancia en nuestro Cluster, el Diácono Stan Upah (Administrador Pastoral) se encargará de las decisiones administrativas diarias. El padre Peter Jia se centrará principalmente en proporcionar apoyo sacramental y cuidado pastoral. El P. James Secora (Decano/Supervisor Sacerdote) proporcionará cualquier consulta necesaria al Diácono Stan Upah y al P. Peter Jia.

¡Por favor, den la bienvenida al padre Peter!

Reflexión

Las estrellas que seguimos. Todos siguen a una estrella. Es la naturaleza humana buscar, crecer, moverse, llegar más allá de donde estamos. Incluso mantenerse igual requiere esfuerzo. Cuando dejamos de buscar, dejamos de vivir. Pero la cuestión no es si buscamos. Es lo que buscamos. Los Magos no sabían del todo lo que buscaban. No eran profetas; simplemente eran personas que escuchaban una voz profunda dentro de sí y seguían donde la llevaba. Confiaban en el viaje. Al final, encontraron lo que todos realmente buscamos - no riquezas ni poder, sino sentido. Así que pregúntate: de todas las estrellas que podrías seguir, ¿cuál te dice esa voz interior silenciosa que persigas? Señala eso. Y adelante.