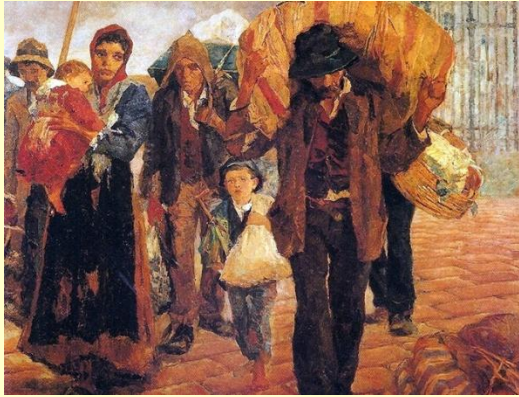


October 14, 2026 – Welcoming the Stranger: Hospitality in World Religions



This lecture explores how diverse spiritual traditions frame the ethical and sacred responsibility of receiving the outsider. We will examine Eastern perspectives, highlighting how Hindu teachings on *atithi devo bhava* (“the guest is like God”) and Buddhist values of compassion and generosity (*dāna*) encourage openness and care toward all beings. Turning to Western traditions, we will begin with the ancient Greek ideal of guest-friendship (*xenia*), which bound

hosts and strangers in mutual respect under divine witness. The discussion continues through biblical sources, including the Jewish Torah’s repeated injunction to love the stranger, the Pauline Epistles’ calls for communal hospitality, and the Christian Gospels’ portrayal of welcoming the marginalized as a reflection of divine love. Across these traditions, hospitality emerges not merely as social courtesy, but as a profound moral practice that bridges difference, affirms human dignity, and reveals the sacred in the encounter with the unknown.

Dr. Nate DesRosiers



Nate DesRosiers is a perennial favorite here at Saint Susanna Adult Formation. He is Associate Professor in Religious Studies at Stonehill College in Easton, where he teaches courses in Classics, New Testament, and Early Christianity, and Visiting Professor at Brown University. He received a Master’s degree from Harvard University in 1998 and a Ph.D. from Brown University in 2007.