

# Lenten Pastus Speaker Series



Wednesday evenings during Lent have become an important part of the observation of Lent at Our Lady of Mercy. Our traditional Pastus series feeds the spirit, the body and the head as we pray, eat and learn together. This year, our Pastus series will focus on the call to justice.

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## **March 6 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Mass**

Let us begin this holy season of preparation and conversion joined together around the Eucharistic table and the Word of God.

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## **March 13 “Sent to Give Sight to the Blind”, Dr. Douglas Vilella 5:30 PM Mass, 6:10 PM Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Program**

For more than 2 decades, Dr. Vilella has been traveling to Central America to provide free eye care to some of the world’s poorest patients. With hospitals in Guatemala, Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua and Peru, Vision For the Poor treats around 300,000 patients each year. Operated and staffed by indigenous doctors, the 8 hospitals run by this organization are largely self-supporting for operating costs.

*Dr. Douglas Vilella has been the Executive Director of Vision for the Poor since 1995. In addition to serving as staff eye doctor for Community Health Net and Health South Rehab, he has been in private practice with Bayfront Eyecare since 1987. Born in Punxsutawney, he graduated from St. Bonaventure Univ and Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He served as captain in the U.S. Army before moving to Erie.*

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## **March 18–20 7:00 PM Parish Mission**

### **“An Intimate Encounter with the Trinity”, Fr. Michael DeMartinis**

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## **March 27 “Immigration, Refugees, and the Catholic Church: A Dialogue”, Fr. Shane Mathew 5:30 PM Mass, 6:10 PM Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Program**

From DACA to border walls, from the fear of terrorists to the images of children separated from parents, from government shut-downs in the U.S. to riots in Europe, immigration has captured headlines. We may know what Democrats and Republicans, President Trump and Chancellor Merkel have to say about this important social issue, but do we know what our faith has to say? Fr. Shane Mathew will help us to see this current crisis in light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.

*Father Shane Mathew is a professor of theology at Gannon University and weekend assistant at Our Lady of Peace Church. He was born and raised in Erie and was ordained a priest in 2005.*

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## **April 3 “Care for the Environment: A Call to Humility and Transformation”, Ann McCarthy, O.S.B. 5:30 PM Mass, 6:10 PM Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Program**

In *Laudato Si!: Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. The crisis demands that we reevaluate and shift our attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. A fresh look at ancient Christian wisdom offers insights for deep transformation and for living a new relationship with the planet as individuals and communities.

*Anne McCarthy, OSB, member of Mount St. Benedict Monastery, Erie, PA, coordinates Benedictines for Peace in Erie and is on staff with Benetvision and Monasteries of the Heart. She holds an MA in Theology from St. John’s University, Collegeville with a concentration in monastic studies.*

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## **April 10 7:00 PM Parish Penance Service**

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## **April 17 7:00 PM A Holy Pilgrimage Through Holy Week**

Pack your bag. Leave your cell phone and day planner behind. Come and join us for a pilgrimage through Holy Week.