

Steeple Talk

Volume 10, No. 5

July 31, 2016

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: New parochial vicar Rev. Michael Gazzinigan celebrates this Mass at least once a week. Visiting priest Fr. Franklin Epie from Ivory Coast has also celebrated this Mass during his stay in the parish.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. John Hester is celebrating this Mass as usual each week.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Fr. Russ Roide, SJ, is moving to Spain in August to serve English-speaking ex-pats, Brits and Irish in a parish in Malaga.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Charlotte Gross, sacristan, is sincerely inviting potential lectors or sacristans to step forward to help at this Mass. Don't be shy!

12:00 Sunday Mass: See page 2 for news of Gregorian music at the upcoming feast the Assumption of Mary.

12:15 Daily Mass: The church is open all morning before this noon Mass, except on Saturdays.

STA Site Committee considerations:

July 3rd STA Site Committee meeting notes:

Basement Hall configuration:

A diagram of how furniture in the Thomas House basement should be placed after all events was considered. Recommendations were offered:

- Tables should be returned to the laundry room.
- The floor should be swept after events.
- The diagram should be put on the parish website so those who reserve the basement know how the room is supposed to be arranged when they leave.
- It seems reasonable to have the chairs for the St. Ann Choir practice sessions listed as the default setting for chairs.
- Individuals or groups who

reserve the basement for a non-parish event must be affiliated with the parish in some way, or be sponsored by a parishioner. No rental fees are charged, but donations to the parish are expected.

Church front stairs:

Discussion continues on replacing the church front stairs. Because of the church's historical status, the City of Palo Alto must approve the final plans to be sure the visual integrity of the building is preserved. Proposals being considered include replacing the stairs with new concrete stairs or with fieldstone or marble facing. The project will take several weeks once it can go forward.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Church exterior paint:

Investigation into repainting the wood siding of the church exterior confirms the technical wisdom that it should be repainted every 7-9 years, with proper prepping of the wood each time. Bids for the job will be requested from three paint companies.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:

1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:

*Wednesday, August 3, 2016,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library*

Agenda (tentative):

- **PSC report**
- **Basement configuration**
- **Sept. garden work**
- **Disaster preparedness**

Monthly newsletter:

Sunday before first Wednesday

Editor: Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net

STA Site activities:

Newcomers:

On the first Sunday of the month, a parish volunteer stands by a table on the curb outside of church, welcoming newcomers at each Mass and inviting them to sign up as a parishioner. Recent newcomers are:

7:30 Mass:

- Mark & Brigid Lustig, children Allie, Emily, and Joe

10:30 Mass:

- Adam & Maria Lindenau

12:00 Mass:

- Joanne Bonoan

Thomas House Library:

Volunteer to keep the library open a couple of hours a week. Contact Ted Baer at tabaer@sbcglobal.net, or (650) 321-6179.

Friday Yoga in TH Basement:

An open yoga class is held each Friday at 6:30 am in the Thomas House Basement hall under the direction of long-time local yoga teacher Lilly Hillis. Good for seniors—just bring your yoga mat and come!

Garden work plans:

STA garden leader Vicki Sullivan and volunteers will gather in mid-September to spread compost/mulch around the whole garden again. Vicki is concerned about the hedge plantings on the right side of church, apparently due to spotty sprinklers. Volunteers are welcome. This is a great project for parents and grandparents with their children on a Saturday morning. Watch for the date chosen!

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer	Bob Barron	Helen Baumann
Jan Dedek	Judy Foley	Anna Jaklitsch
Nora Lundin	Bill Mahrt	Bob March
Vicki Sullivan	Kay Williams	and occasional others

Mission Statement: The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to encourage community-building within our six individual Mass communities, among our Mass communities, and within the larger parish community. We do this by enhancing our liturgies, exercising responsible stewardship of our facilities, and working to improve communications at all levels of our parish community.

Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Library of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, (650) 270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday afternoon, September 11: Palo Alto Multifaith Peace Walk and Picnic:

Join together with brothers and sisters of many backgrounds and spiritual traditions as we say “no” to fear and “yes” to friendship by walking together in south Palo Alto to show the way to community and peace.

After the walk we will gather at Mitchell Park for the annual 9/11 Peace Picnic hosted by American Muslim Voice.

Details will be available in August at www.multifaithpeace.org.

Holiday Faire 2016: Call For Volunteers:

The St. Thomas Aquinas Holiday Faire is on Saturday, November 5th in the OLR hall. Mark your calendars now! A fun new feature this year is that ALL holidays are included - Valentines, St. Patrick's, Easter, 4th of July, Hallow-

een, Thanksgiving, Christmas! Featured items will include hand-made holiday pillowcases, gift tags, baked goods, and festive decor.

Preparations are already underway and volunteers are gathering! Community Life is asking parishioners for old Christmas cards, extra scrap booking or craft materials, and ribbon. We are also looking for people who want to come to our crafting sessions, and for seamstresses, bakers, people who crochet and anyone that loves the holidays!

Contact Anne Morrison (650.493.2998 / ahbert55@aol.com) or Natalie Lucha (650.494.1178 / nlucha22@yahoo.com) to become involved or with ideas. Please note, holiday decorations will be collected the first two weekends in October. We are asking for only new or like-new items. Homemade crafts will be collected up until the week prior to the event.

From the church steps:

St. Ann Choir celebrates coming feast:

The St. Ann Choir will celebrate the Assumption of Mary, Monday, August 15, 8:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The choir will sing the *Missa O Qua Gloriosum* and the Gregorian chants for the day.

STA 10:30 Choir news:

The women of the choir are taking the Summer “Off.” Paul & Jamie will continue “storming heaven” with their songs and prayers. Please help to “lift them up” with your prayers and your voices, and anyone who sits in the front of the Church will receive twice the regular blessings! (only half-kidding!) Some visitors and two “regulars” were seen sitting in the second pew! Wonderful! Thanks to all for your presence and your singing.

Volunteer to ferry donated goods to EPA:

Could you help out once a month by taking the donated food stuffs over to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Closet in EPA? Fred Dietrich has been doing this for years and would love to have relief of a Sunday. He can train you! Contact Fred at 650-856-2048, fjd4@sbcglobal.net.

Second Collection today for the Work of Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference:

Your St. Vincent de Paul conference helps a variety of families and single people including many homeless. Thank you, parishioners, for your generous help to our 2nd collections. Lately you have helped, among others, two Palo Alto families in great need.

In one family, the father, Sergio, has had multiple surgeries, and can't work while

recovering. His wife is looking for work. They have 4 children.

The other family has one wage earner; Silvia has 6 children and 2 disabled older parents. She has been able to pay the rent with as many hours of work as possible. They help by collecting bottles and cans. This month they are quite short and need help.

We hope you will be able to contribute to the St. Vincent de Paul second collection today. Thank you so much.

Sponsor 2017 Parish Calendar:

Would your business benefit by being advertised in nearly every household in our parish? Then why not consider sponsoring our 2017 Parish Calendar. Please contact our Business Manager, Chuck Tully at ctully@dsj.org or (650) 494-2496 ext. 20.