

Steeple Talk

Volume 10, No. 12

March 5, 2017

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. Sev Kuupuo will celebrate his Jubilee Mass on Feb. 19 at the 10:30 Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. Hester is recovering well from his December fall. He hopes to be saying Mass again soon.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Fr. Larry Percell, retired pastor of St. Nicholas Parish in Los Altos, has been celebrating this Mass frequently this month.

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: Enjoy hearing and singing Gregorian chant each week.

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

Lenten practices at STA:

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church. Take advantage of the various Lenten practices and devotions taking place here at St. Thomas Aquinas Church during Lent:

Daily celebrations of the Mass and Adoration:

Mass is celebrated Monday through Friday here at STA at 7:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., and on Saturday at 12:15 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be offered every Friday after the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is provided every Wednesday after the 12:15 p.m. Mass and on Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

"The light is on for you"-Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Private confession from 6 p.m. till 8 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent: March 8, 15, 22,

29, April 5 & 12.

Additional times for confessions are on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. till 12:00 p.m.—before the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

Holy Week, April 9-16:

April 13: Holy Thursday's Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, at 8 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas (Gregorian).

April 14: Good Friday's Celebration of the Lord's Passion, at 12:00 p.m. here at STA.

(See Parish bulletins for Lenten services and devotions at St. Albert's and Our Lady of the Rosary.)

Almsgiving in Lent:

Operation Rice Bowl is a simple way to experience Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving and provide great assistance to many people in need through the work of Catholic Relief Services. Seventy-five percent of the contributions to Operation Rice Bowl support devel-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

opment projects overseas and Lenten education activities in the US. Take one of the rice bowls available at the doors of the church. Place it in a conspicuous location in your home or at work where it will remind you of your commitment to pray and give alms for others around the world in need. Bring your rice bowl to Mass on Palm Sunday.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:

1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:

Wednesday, March 8, 2017,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ **Event planning: May Day**
- ◆ **Emergency training**
- ◆ **Front porch bench**
- ◆ **2017 Living Crèche**

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. On February 5, we welcomed:

12:00: Jennifer Sullivan & David Rohrbaugh, Palo Alto

12:00: Geoffrey Sigalet, Menlo Park

Thomas House Library:

Volunteer to keep the library in the Thomas House open a couple of hours a week. Contact Ted Baer at tbauer@sbcglobal.net, 650-690-6732.

May Fetè Parade and

STA Open House: Palo Alto's annual May Day Parade on May 6 will come down Homer Street and end at Waverley and Heritage Park—right in front of our church. The STA Site Com-

mittee opens the church to visitors, serves coffee and lemonade to parade watchers, and presents a welcoming face to the many families who are standing on the sidewalk watching their children march by in the Scout troops and school bands. Volunteers to help with the beverages are needed—between 9:30 and noon, or any portion thereof.

Contact Kay Williams if you can be part of the team: 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

**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 build community across the site's six Mass communities and within the larger parish: 1) by facilitating communication among Mass communities, the Thomas House tenants and other users, and the larger parish; 2) by sponsoring and organizing site-specific community building activities; and 3) by exercising responsible stewardship of our historic downtown facilities.

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:

Lenten Morning of Reflection March 11 at OLR:

Come and focus on how we might respond to the call to conversion and transformation, to a more active faith, to compassionate justice in this climate of fear, distrust, anxiety and seeming lack of hope. We will explore together the Scriptural messages of hope, the current stories of strength, and our



own spiritual practices which lead us to be the Lenten "good news" leading to Resurrection. **Facilitated by Sr. Marilyn Wilson, BVM on Saturday**

March 11, 9 am—1 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall. Light refreshments provided; sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

March 18: The first St. Patrick's celebration was held in our Palo Alto Catholic community more than half century ago. This won-

derful family event will be held this year on Saturday, March 18. Enjoy an Irish band and Irish dancers from Greene Academy of Dance. As always, a great dinner will be served (and pizza for vegetarians and those not caring for the corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots dinner.) All of this for \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.....just like 25 years ago. And Guinness on tap, too! Tickets on sale after Mass today and next week!

Spirituality Tuesday Assembly: March 7, 7:00-8:30 pm, SAGH: The Bible and the Qur'an

A Comparative Study Part 6 (Video) with our host Fr. Matt. Prof. Gabriel Reynolds, a Catholic scholar of Islamic studies at Notre Dame, guides us through the fascinating history and varied interpretations of the Qur'an and its relationship to the Holy Bible. Tonight we will hear a Christian interpretation of the Qur'an.

From the church steps:

March 9: Taizé Prayer at Our Lady of the Rosary, Thursday evenings during Lent: March 9, March 16, March 23 and March 30, 7:00-8:00 pm.



Taizé Prayer is a time for connecting in joy and gratitude, nurturing the PRESENCE within. Echoes of shared prayer..."your prayer is my prayer

too" sustains and supports you. Candles shine in remembrance of your LIGHT and the LIGHT in the world. Melodic chants and inspirational readings call you deeper to the SPIRIT within and the beauty of GOD'S presence.

Taizé originated in Burgundy, France, sixty years ago! Word spread and people from all over the world started to visit Taizé and pray there. Come and be part of this uplifting of the heart to God and be filled with peace.

Hotel de Zink signups in March:

Our parish will be providing food for the homeless shelter ([Hotel de Zink](#)) at the Church of Christ on Middlefield Road during the first two weeks of April. Ruth Chippendale will be signing people up after the Masses during March. If you miss Ruth and would like to bring food, please call her at 650-856-6350. Thank you for your help.

Bishop McElroy's Comments at the U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements:

The Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego, on February 18 delivered the following comments at the U.S. Regional World Meeting of Popular Movements during a panel discussion on the barriers marginalized people face in housing and work: "One of the most striking elements of "Laudato Si" is its clear and bold analysis of the empirical realities that threaten the Earth which is our common home. "Seeing the situation clearly" is the whole

foundation for that encyclical. It is the starting point for transformative justice. Pope Francis was unafraid to venture into this controversial set of questions about climate change and the environment despite the fact that massive social and economic forces, especially within our own country, have conspired to obscure the scientific realities of climate change and environmental degradation, in the very same way that the tobacco companies obscured for decades the medical science pertaining to smoking.

"There is a lesson for us here, as agents of change and justice. Never be afraid to speak the truth. Always find your foundation for reflection and action in the fullness of empirical reality. Design strategies for change upon ever fuller dissemination of truths, even when they seem inconvenient to the cause.

"This is an especially important anchor for us, in an age in which truth itself is under attack."