

Steeple Talk

Volume 11, No. 12

March 4, 2018

News from the STA Mass communities: :

7:15 Daily Mass: The 3 parish priests rotate presider duties through the week: Pastor Fr. Matt Stanley, and Parochial Vicars Fr. Mike Gazzingan and Fr. Stasys Mikalonis. The church is open after this Mass until after the 12:15 daily Mass.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. John Hester has officially retired from celebrating this Mass after over 40 years' service in STA Parish.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Fr. Jack Izzo, SJ, who has celebrated this Mass once a month for the past 2 years, will be moving to Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, in July.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Charlotte Gross and Margo Wright serve as sacristans.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir leads Gregorian chant each Sunday at this Mass.

12:15 Daily Mass: Stations of the Cross are offered every Friday during Lent following Mass. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held each Wednesday in Lent after Mass.

St. Patrick's Dinner Lent at STA:

The first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the Palo Alto Catholic community was held in 1966--a corned beef and cabbage dinner followed by dancing. In 1992 the celebration was reconfigured into a family event at an affordable price.

This year's party, to be held in the St. Elizabeth Seton auditorium at 6:00 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, will include the traditional corned beef dinner, soda bread, the colorful Irish dancing students from Greene Academy, Irish music featuring a new parishioner, Catherine Corrigan, on piano, and activity packets for the children.

For yet another year the price has been held at \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Please see the poster in the vestibule for more information or call Helen at 650-327-9236 or Ted at 650-690-6732.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: here at STA from 6 - 8 pm on March 7, 14, 21, 28.

Confessions: Saturday, 11:30 am - 12:00 pm here at STA.

Devotions after 12:15 pm Mass: See note in far left column.

The parish Seder dinner will be at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall on Tuesday, March 27, at 6:00 pm. This celebration of Exodus and our relationship with the Jewish people features a liturgy built around their traditional Passover celebration, including the Seder plate, followed by a lamb and potato dinner.

For more information, please see the poster in the vestibule or call Carole at 650-493-5434. The dinner is \$10, with excess proceeds contributed to native STA parishioner Fr. Jack Donald's work in Central America.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Weeding of the Green, March 17:

We are holding a "Weeding Party": 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 17, at STA. It's the Weeding of the Green! All Irish and imitation Irish admitted free. All others bring your own tools. It's a quick spruce up of STA's garden beds before Easter. Let Vicki Sullivan know you'll be there: (650) 327-5339 or (650) 740-0124, vickisullivan@comcast.net.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, March 7, 2018,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ PSC Report
- ◆ Safety training
- ◆ Interior Committee report
- ◆ Church exterior: stairs, etc.
- ◆ Hotel de Zink in August

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before Wednesday meeting

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 Feb. 4, two persons filled out the form, and both consented to be identified publicly:

10:30 Mass:
Magen Beyer, Palo Alto
Marianne Mueller, Palo Alto

STA Site tech help:

Thanks to the expertise of Kory Trebbin, the venerable computer in the Thomas House office is running again. He has spent several hours inside the computer unit; new parts ordered off eBay worked!. Kory is volunteering his time for the STA computer, but he is available to fix your computer, at reasonable rates. Contact him: (408) 637-1092, koryspeak@aol.com.

Fish Fest on hold till April:



The next Friday Fish Fest in the STA Thomas House will be April 13 at the regular time of 6:00 p.m.

March 11: DST starts

Hard to believe, but Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Remember to set your clocks forward by one hour when you go to bed on March 10.

**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:

♥ *Have a Heart results:*

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed in any way to the recent Have A Heart collection for the Opportunity Center. A total of \$1981 was donated which will help meet clients' important needs as they arise over the coming year. A bag of new wrapped items was also donated which was given to the OC.

Your donations will be kept safe in a church account until purchases have been made. Many thanks to all!

On Friday, Feb. 9, one of our parishioners prepared a delicious beef stew for the ladies currently residing overnight at the Heart and Home Collaborative shelter housed at University Lutheran church.

Thanks to people in our parish who contributed cash donations to make this meal possible. If you care to contribute toward another evening meal before the March 11 closing, you may place a check in a Mass collection made out to STA parish with a memo of "Heart and Home." Even a small amount is much appreciated. Thank you very much.

--The Human Concerns Committee

St. Patrick's Seminary seeking to fill two positions:

A Marketing Director and an Advancement Associate are needed at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Contact: David Flores, Finance & Human Resources Manager, 650-289-3330, david.flores@stpsu.edu.

Taizé Prayer during Lent:

Taizé Prayer is a time for connecting in joy and gratitude, nurturing the presence within. Candles shine; melodic chants and inspirational readings call you deeper into the spirit within and the beauty of God's presence.

Come and be part of this universal uplifting of the heart to God and be filled with peace. It originated in Taizé, France, instigated by Brother Roger, sixty years ago, and had such a powerful effect on the participants that word spread about it and people from all over the world began to visit Taizé and pray there.

Thursday evenings continuing during Lent: March 8 and March 15.

7:00-8:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

From the church steps:

Bibles for meditative reading:

The STA Bible rack just inside our sanctuary is now filled, thanks to individual donations and many Bibles passed along to us by St Elizabeth Seton School. They are available for anyone to use in the sanctuary. Please feel free to spend quiet time reading, learning and savoring the Word of God, particularly during Lent.

Eastern Catholic Retreat:

An Eastern Catholic Retreat with Bishop John Kudrick: "Seeking the Hidden God" May 11-13, 2018, at Mt. Cross Ministries in Ben Lomond, CA. For more info or to register, contact Fr. Anthony Hernandez of St. Basil the Great Byzantine Catholic Church: pastor.stbasil@gmail.com or (408) 871-0919. Register by April 4.

Recycling news:

This past summer, China decided to ban most of the materials it receives from world-wide sources for recycling. The deadline for the change was January 1 of

this year. Up to that time, China accepted materials with up to 5% contamination and so our recycling facilities set up their processes to meet that limit. As of this year, the contamination limit is 0.4% and most recycling concerns cannot meet that target. China's decision is being clarified and negotiated and in the meantime, crates of empty bottles are accumulating on Pier 96 in San Francisco as at other ports.

The Palo Alto Zero Waste rep says they are on the case with Recology to clean up the shipments to meet China's new standards. She also says that outreach to people telling them not to place into recycle bins containers with food and bottles with liquids will be very helpful. She says the containers do not need to be washed, but have to be empty. There is a high likelihood that our recycling rates will go up to place resources for better sorting of the materials, or for the US to build its own recycling process,

or to set up in other countries the processes for the amount of materials that China was taking. If it goes to the landfill, it will be a huge environmental cost. We all have to become more diligent in sorting recyclables, compost, and trash. --Parish Green Committee

Spiritual Care Service:

Would you be interested in visiting Catholic patients at Stanford Hospital and offering them Communion as a Eucharistic Minister? If you are a compassionate listener, empathetic, well grounded in your faith, and open to serving a couple of hours a week, then becoming a Spiritual Care Service Volunteer at Stanford might be the right opportunity for you.

Stanford Health Care is offering its next training class for new volunteers on Saturday, March 17th, at Stanford Hospital. Contact Raksha Patel at 650-723-5101 or spiritualcare@stanfordhealthcare.org.