

Steeple Talk

Volume 12, No. 2

April 29, 2018

News from the STA Mass communities: :

7:15 Daily Mass: New sacristans from among those attending this Mass have been tapped: Ruth Chippendale and Fran McVittie.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Bea Peterson, Gerard Wen and Gina Craig are sacristans and music coordinators who keep the backstage Mass tasks covered.

8:45 Sunday Mass: May 13th will be Fr. Jack Izzo, S.J.'s last Mass here before he leaves for his next assignment in Washington state.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Paul Prochaska is the lead music minister and welcomes singers/musicians who would like to join him. Find him after Mass.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir will observe the feast of Pentecost by singing the *Messa da Capella* by Claudio Monteverdi, a magnificent work of the early seventeenth century.

12:15 Daily Mass: The church is open from the 7:15 Mass until after this 12:15 daily Mass.

Fish Fest May 18 at 6 pm:



Fish Fest!
Tasty breaded fish filets and the ever-tangy

Asian cole slaw served at the Thomas House on Friday, May 18, at 6 p.m. Who can resist? Many thanks to people who generously bring snacks and desserts to share as well. All this for only \$5 per person, plus \$2 for a beer or generous glass of wine.

Join fellow pew-mates and friends who take advantage of this satisfying meal, chat and laugh together, enjoying the liberation from deciding "what's for dinner?"

IMPORTANT TO RSVP:

Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com, or Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

May Fête Parade + Open House May 5:

Palo Alto's 96th Annual May Fête Parade on Saturday, May 5, will come down Waverley Street and end right in front of our church.

The STA Site Committee opens the church to visitors (who can enjoy organ music played by Professor Bill Mahrt), 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. We keep the church restroom open—it is a welcome stop for many of the parade-watchers!

Volunteers to help with the beverages are needed— between 9:30 and noon, or any portion thereof. Because the parade route is closed to cars early Saturday morning, aim to



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

park south of Channing Ave. Let **Kay Williams know** if you can help out (see sidebar for her contact information).

This year's parade theme is "Children of the World" for floats; non-commercial floats can win cash prizes up to \$500!

Following the parade, stick around for the May Fête Fair at Heritage Park, sponsored by Kiwanis of Palo Alto.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:

1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:

Wednesday, May 2, 2018,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ PSC Report
- ◆ May Day Open House
- ◆ Fish Fest May 18
- ◆ Interior Committee report
- ◆ Church exterior: stairs, etc.

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 welcomes newcomers at each Mass and invites them to sign up as a parishioner. On April 8, the following person registered:

10:30 Mass:
Marlowe Lawenko, Palo Alto

Portable oven:

We are planning to install shelves in the Thomas House kitchen that will house the portable oven when it's not cooking fish for Fish Fest. Judy Foley is designing the shelves.

Sullivan new rep from STA Site to Pastoral Council:

Vicki Sullivan has agreed to serve as the representative from the STA Site Committee to the Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC). She will attend the monthly PSC meetings on the 2nd Wed. of each month and report back to the Site Committee with what's happening parish-wide as well as carry our concerns to the PSC. Contact Vicki at: vickisullivan@comcast.net.

Shredder in the Thomas House office:

We now have, in the Thomas House Library office, a working paper shredder available for everyone to use.

The very simple instructions are posted right next to the shredder.

Please feel free to use it any time that the House is open, whether you have two sheets or two hundred sheets to destroy.

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

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer **Helen Baumann** **Lorraine Dabney**
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:

Countdown for the Seton School annual golf tournament, May 14:

Play Golf at Stanford on Monday, May 14, and empower children of low-income families to reach their full potential

- Exclusive Stanford golf venue
- Food, wine and beverages
- Awards + silent & live auction!

All golfers are welcome! Proceeds will directly support St. Elizabeth Seton School students. You do make a difference: St. Elizabeth Seton School has educated over 11,000 students, empowering each child to reach his/her full potential--70% of Seton students continue onto college.

Our children are mostly from East Palo Alto, and east Menlo Park. Admission to Seton School is provided regardless of a family's ability to pay. However, with a 28% tuition gap after contributions from generous benefactors –

including the Daughters of Charity – this golf event is essential to helping meet annual expenses. Join us for golf or at the 4:00 PM reception. **Register now:** www.setonpalalto.org.

Parish-wide Afternoon of Reflection May 6:

All parishioners (young and old alike) are invited to an afternoon of prayer and reflection on our call to true discipleship on Sunday, May 6, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Seton School Auditorium at St. Albert the Great with special guest, ValLimar Jansen., a dynamic woman of faith who will inspire people of all ages to grow as disciples of Christ with her heart-felt stories and songs. ValLimar is a regular presenter at the Los Angeles Religious Education Conference and has shared the Gospel message at churches around the country and in nations around the world.

The event is free to all. Refreshments will be served. Contact Susan at the Pastoral Center (suolsen@dsj.org, 650-494-2496 Ext. 25) if you have questions.

From the church steps:

League of Women Voters to present non-partisan analysis of CA ballot propositions, May 6, 10:15 a.m.:

Californians go to the voting booth again this June, and there are several propositions on the ballot. The Merton Center is sponsoring a presentation by members of the local League of Women Voters to illuminate the various propositions, present the pro/con arguments, and answer questions: Sunday, May 6, 10:15 a.m. in the Thomas House living room. All are welcome. Coffee and doughnuts, too!

Death Penalty action planning continues on May 12:

The Palo Alto California People of Faith Chapter meeting will occur Saturday, May 12th. The meeting will start at 10 AM at the Thomas House. All interested persons are invited to attend.

The agenda will include the following:

- * Reflection

- * Update on CA Death Penalty
- * CA Death Row inmate Vicente Benavides: death sentence overturned and released
- * Taking the Pledge to Educate, Advocate and Pray for an end to the death penalty
- * Letter to Gov. Brown to commute CA death sentences. Soft copy attached
- * Letter to Santa Clara DA Rosen to end death sentences
- * Letter to San Mateo DA Wagstaffe to end death sentences
- * Action on behalf of Jarvis Masters.
- * Diversification of California People of Faith.
- * The way forward on abolition. Brain Storming session: June 6th from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Temple Emanuel, 2 Lake Street, San Francisco.

[Contact Terry McCaffrey for information: terrymc0531@gmail.com, 650-324-7517]

Hosting Hotel de Zink guests:

The opportunity for STA parish to be a host church for guests of Hotel de Zink in July or August has not materialized. Peninsula Bible Church will host in August. Ruth Chippendale will continue to sign up STA parishioners to bring meals for two weeks in April, and in August if necessary.

Repair of church front stairs:

We are hopeful that the repair of the front stairs of the church can be accomplished in June and July, when there is a window between weddings at STA. Contractor bids are being invited and reviewed. But if there is a delay, another window between weddings is in the late fall, so there's hope the job can be done before the end of the year. It's a good thing that weddings are booked months in advance, so we can forecast when construction can be done!