

Steeple Talk

Volume 13 No. 5

September 1, 2019

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: A holy beginning to the day is celebrated each weekday morning at STA.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Pat Clough and Young-Jeh Oh are now assisting Bea Peterson with sacristan duties.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Once a month, music is led by cantor Carol Daly and pianist Mary Elaine McEnergy.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Sacristan Charlotte Gross prepares the altar with vessels and linens for Mass each week.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The music is provided by the St. Ann Choir and the congregation who sing Gregorian chant and medieval and Renaissance polyphony.

12:15 Daily Mass: The church stays open after the 7:15 am Mass, through the 12:15 Mass until 5 pm every day.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, September 4, 2019,
7:00pm, (**NEW TIME**) Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Fall activities
- ◆ Church back stairs
- ◆ Thomas House hand rail
- ◆ Garden work

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before Wednesday meeting

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

Busy weekend September 14-15:

Garden grooming, Saturday, September 14:

The gardens around STA church and the Thomas House are begging for a cleanup. Come help with weeding, pruning, spreading mulch, etc. The garden groomers will gather at the church on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 9:00 am—come when you can. Quitting time will be around noon. Wear your garden gloves, bring a trowel or favorite garden tool or accessory, and join the team! For information: contact Vicki Sullivan, 650-740-0124, or email vickisullivan@comcast.net.

Parish Potluck and Picnic September 15:

Come to Our Lady of the Rosary church, 11:15 am till 2:00 pm. Bring family and friends for lots of fun.

There will be the Knights of Columbus cooking up a storm and free refreshments. As always there will be piñatas and the face painting faerie for the children.

There will be a Free-Cycle event, too, where everyone is encouraged to bring things you no longer need but are willing to pass on to someone new — all free. AND, you might find a treasure for yourself! (Sorry, no child car seats accepted.)

Here's the "potluck" part: This year we'll be encouraging more folks to bring salads and casseroles.

Guidelines: prepare a dish for 8. Last names A-P bring salad or side dish, Q-Z bring dessert.

Watch for sign-up sheets after Mass to volunteer to help with set up and clean up.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

STA's altar dedication September 15:

Bishop Oscar Cantú will celebrate the 10:30 Mass at STA on September 15 and will dedicate the new altar during the Mass. There is a special blessing and ritual when a new altar is installed in a Catholic church.

Jan Dedek built the new altar furniture, donating his skill and time to this holy project.

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 August 4, we welcomed:

7:30 Mass:
Katherine Szarama, Palo Alto
Grecia Ro, Palo Alto

10:30 Mass:
Victor Cervantes, Palo Alto

Friday Fish Fest restarts on October 18:

 The STA Site Committee will resume the Friday Fish Fest dinners on October 18th. After the summer break, we hope parishioners will be ready for tasty fish filets, chips, and tangy cole slaw. Save October 18 at 6:00 p.m. for this traditional fish supper in the Thomas House in the friendly company of others in our parish.

Site Committee meeting changed to 7:00pm:

The STA Site Committee decided to move its meeting time forward by 30 minutes, to 7:00 p.m., on the first Wednesday of the month. Please take note and update your calendars.

Next STA Site Committee meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 7:00 p.m., in the Thomas House Library. All are welcome.

**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:

Pastor Fr. Stasys wants us to know:

•Thank you to all parishioners who contributed time and energy to deep clean buildings at the Our Lady of the Rosary site on August 25. They did an amazing job! A special thank you is due to Adrian Tostado for putting his tree trimming business in service of the parish for free. So far in the last year Adrian has donated work worth around \$15,000 by completely removing 4 sick trees and trimming not less than 10 trees at all our sites.

•Thank you to all parishioners who supported the pancake breakfast for the children's faith formation kick off on August 18.

High School Confirmation

prep: Wednesday, September 18, is the time for high school students to sign up for our one year Confirmation preparation classes. Take this opportunity to exponentially grow in your faith; meet

weekly with like minds and feel prepared and totally excited to celebrate YOUR Confirmation Day on April 18th of 2020. The first Orientation Meeting (parents too, please) is Sept. 18 at 7 pm at OLR Parish Hall to share an overview and select a meeting time that suits most (5-6:30 pm, 6-7:30 pm or 7-8:30 pm on Wednesday evenings).

Classes start Wed., Sept 25th, at OLR Parish Hall. Suggested age group: ages 13 and over - Folks from all parish sites are welcome. Contact Carmel Caligaris at 650-967-3807, carmel.caligaris@dsj.org.

The Catholic Media: Past and Future: Come Saturday, Sept. 28, at 3:00 pm to St. Albert Hospitality Center for a discussion with Jim Purcell, Chairman of the Board of the *National Catholic Reporter*, former CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. Stay on for a wine and cheese reception. Sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center.

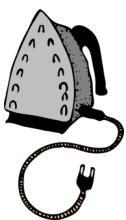
From the church steps:

Prepping STA for Sunday Masses:

Gerard Wen has organized a whole team of gentlemen who come extra early on Sunday mornings, well before 7:30 am, to open the church and generally prepare the Church for all the Masses (lights on, various doors unlocked, setting up the mics and sound equipment). He has their names and he (Gerard) keeps these volunteers organized.

Call for help with altar linens:

We could use a volunteer to help with laundering and pickup and delivery of the linens for 7:30, 10:30, and 12:00 Masses. Break out that old iron and enjoy the satisfaction of using it for community benefit.



Contact Bea Peterson for details: beatrice.peterson@sbcglobal.net.

Old STA altar is now in storage:

The old altar has been taken by Fr. Chris Bennett, currently pastor of St. Christopher Church in San Jose, also advisor for liturgy to the Diocese of San Jose. Fr. Bennett will store the altar, ambo and presider's chair until such time as another parish is in need of an altar.

New ministers needed for Pastoral Home Ministry:

We are in need of ministers to bring communion to individuals at home and at nursing care facilities. Many of our ministers have left or retired due to age and health issues. Please consider joining this fulfilling ministry. Training is provided.

If interested, please contact Mary Fong at 650-494-1660 or fongmt@hotmail.com

Centering Prayer update:

The Centering Prayer group that met last spring in the Thomas House on Saturday mornings took a break over the summer. It is starting up again with a new time and place:

The centering prayer group now meets every Friday morning from 8:30-9:00 a.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto for a period of quiet prayer followed by conversation and discussion. Newcomers are welcome.

We are meeting people who have a personal meditation practice and find support and spiritual renewal in a weekly group experience. Please consider coming and try it out with Pat Clough: lovely setting, good people, and a place to nourish your prayer life.

The address is 800 Colorado Avenue between Cowper and Middlefield Rd. If you have any questions, please email Pat at pathclough@gmail.com.