

Steeple Talk

Volume 13, No. 6

September 29, 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: Pianist Mary Elaine McEnery was joined by cantor MaryAnne Stanislaw on September 22.

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.

Friday Fish Fest restarts on October 18: Altar dedicated and blessed on September 15:

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.

Take a break from kitchen duty and join us on October 18.

Please, please RSVP to Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com in advance. We need to be sure to have enough fish for all of you.



In a solemn and prayerful ritual, Bishop Oscar Cantú of the Diocese of San Jose celebrated the Mass and performed the blessing and dedication of the new altar table on September 15 at the 10:30 Mass. He had to rub the holy oil by hand across the entire-top of the altar. Then the incense was lit in the ceramic bowl, lifting the eye as it spiraled upward to the crucifix. (Towels were provided for wiping hands and altar.)



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Front stairs need two more fixes to be approved by City:

The City of Palo Alto building inspector will sign off on the front stairs after two ADA fixes are implemented:

- 1) painting the grooves in the steps black; and
- 2) extending the black hand rails out an additional four inches.

Both fixes are in the works.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, October 2, 2019,
7:00pm, (**NEW TIME**) Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

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

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 Sept. 1, we welcomed:

10:30 Mass:
Tony Fauci, San Jose

Garden is groomed:

Ten people came out on Saturday, September 14th to help groom the St. Thomas Aquinas

Church garden. Weeding along the Homer St. side of the church and dead heading azaleas in the memorial garden made a big difference – the difference between a neglected area and a well-loved garden. We also added a thin layer of compost and a too thin layer of mulch.

Thank you to Judi Swope, Bill Voorhees, Helen Baumann, Ann Akey, Mike McMahon, Anna and Rudy Jaklitsch ,

Vicki and Larry Sullivan and Veronica Duluk (from OLR). All helpers were rewarded with lemonade and blisters.

For those who could not make it, we will need help in the spring, adding more Society Garlic to the Homer St. side, and adding plants to the driveway.

--Vicki Sullivan



**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:

**Funeral planning in advance:
workshop on October 12:**

How do you go about planning a Catholic funeral or memorial Mass liturgy? Don't wait till the death has happened and you or your family are faced with the event, suddenly realizing you or they want to gather together at a proper funeral service but don't know where to start.

The TMC Liturgy Committee, under the leadership of Maureen Locke, will offer a workshop on how you can think in advance about your own or a loved one's funeral/memorial Mass.

**Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m.
Thomas House Living Room.**

Resource materials will be available (check lists, suggested Scripture readings and hymns), and guidance about including family members in the service. Identify what's most important to you and your family in this informal gathering of parishioners and friends.

Walk to end hunger October 20:

A STA Parish team has been created to support the CROP HUNGER WALK at Nealon Park, 800 Middle Ave, MP. Walk with us, make a donation or both! Festivities begin at 1 pm; walks start at 2 pm. Walkers may choose a .6-mile, 1, 3 or 5-mile walk and enjoy a live band, food, and personal testimonies. Thanks to our parishioners who contributed a total of \$1,085 in 2018 and several parishioners who walked.

CROP Hunger Walk helps to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs and is sponsored by Church World Service, a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations. An important note: 25% of funds raised locally will be contributed to the Ecumenical Hunger Program in EPA.

Check the Crop Hunger Walk site at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/menloparkca> or contact our parish Human Concerns Committee at 650-714-2131.

From the church steps:

New bench welcomes all:



Have you noticed the new seating on the church porch? Thanks to Helen Baumann who found this Central Park-style bench at a bargain price. Try it out. It's amazingly comfortable--for an iron bench!

Peaceful Presence October 11:

Trinity Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave., MP, 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice (of which STA Parish is a member) hosts a time of quiet multifaith prayers for peace and strength for the journey. All are welcome: those of all faith traditions and of no defined faith and all who would like to pray with others for the well-being of all. The prayer time will include elements from several religious traditions.

Geo. Chippendale to be honored today:

We have just learned that George Chippendale is to be honored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St Francis Conference, at a Mass this afternoon, September 29, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Francis Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. Celebration after Mass in the church hall.

George will be 91 this week and this is to celebrate his contribution to the Society over more years than any of us can remember.

Seton School literary fundraiser

Oct. 30:

Award-winning author and educator Francisco Jiménez comes to Seton School, Wed., Oct. 30, 6:00-8:30 pm.

Professor Francisco Jiménez emigrated with his family from Tlaquepaque, Mexico to California and worked alongside his parents in the fields of California.

With no English and a fear of being sent back to Mexico, his books beautifully unfold his inspiring and thought-provoking journey. He is currently a professor at Santa Clara University. His son Miguel Jiménez will interview him.

◆6:00P pm: wine reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a student led tour of the school.

◆7:00 pm: a conversation on stage with Francisco Jimenez.

Purchase Your Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4332873> or www.setonpaloalto.org. Please call Carmel if you have any questions: (650) 326-1258.