

Steeple Talk

Volume 13, No. 9

January 5, 2020

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 Katya Lohngoan on December 22. Larry Schemel and the Community Choir raised the rafters on Christmas Eve, and Paul Prochaska led the music on December 29.

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 singing Gregorian chant and medieval and Renaissance polyphony with congregational participation.

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 January 17:

The STA Site Committee continues with the Friday Fish Fest dinners on the "teenth" Friday



of the month. Are you ready once again for tasty fish filets, chips, and tangy cole slaw?

Come January 17 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 January 17.

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.

Support University AME Zion Church this morning:

Some of you may be aware of graffiti smeared on University AME Zion Church on Middlefield Road in Palo Alto last week. University AME Zion is the oldest African-American church between San Mateo and San Jose.

Attacks on religious institutions and their congregations are increasing and people of faith must voice their concerns. Once tolerated--where does it end?

Please consider stopping by AME Zion today (3549 Middlefield Rd.), Jan. 5th, between 9:30 and 11:30, before or after the regular liturgy you attend, to show support as members of that congregation stand against those that would vandalize and



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

destroy their property.

The Bishop of AME Zion, the Right Reverend Staccato Powell, is crafting a statement condemning the violence and vandalism that is happening nationally at places of worship around the country. Consider being a signer on this statement that speaks out against this disturbing trend.

Email to: info@universityamez.com

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, January 8, 2020,
7:00 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Volunteer needs
- ◆ Memorial plaques
- ◆ Church exterior
- ◆ Church interior
- ◆ Garden progress

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 December 1, we welcomed:

10:30 am Mass:
Thomas Daran & Joan Zhu,
and children Rebecca, Tommy and Diana

12:00 noon Mass:
Lily Salim and Ivan Hajadi

Thomas House library 'rustle' on January 18:

Would you like to see new books available in the Thomas House library, a parish-wide resource for faith-based reading? Do you have a few hours on Saturday morning, January 18th, 9:00 am till noon?

Come join us in the Thomas House, 745 Waverley St. (next door to the church), for sorting, organizing, cataloging and shelving a collection of books donated to the library. Ted Baer has generously volunteered to lead us in the effort. Bring a friend. Coffee will be available to perk us up for the effort! [Note: we are not taking any more book donations at this time.]

Books already catalogued can be checked out after 8:45am Sunday Mass, approximately 9:45-10:45, which is also coincident with time to gather before the 10:30 Sunday liturgy.

Contact Ted to volunteer: tabaer@sbcglobal.net, (650) 690-6732.

**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:

Thanks from the Christmas Giving Trees:

Our Christmas Giving Trees were up in the churches for the Sundays of Advent. Thanks to those who took a tag or two and returned the gifts to the tree. The gifts were given to children in East Palo Alto who may otherwise not have had a gift on Christmas.

Saturday, January 25: Next Session Pastoral Garden Cleanup

Our next work day in the garden at the Pastoral Center (3290 Middlefield Rd. in Palo Alto) is Saturday, January 25th, from 9 to 11:00 am (or however much time you can spare). Donuts & goodies to fuel you.



Thanks to those who came on Saturday, Nov. 23.

Much good work was done.

Pilgrimages in 2020-2021:

Come join our former pastor, Fr. George Aranha, who will be hosting three upcoming Pilgrimages for 2020 and 2021 which will be of interest to you!

- Eleven-day Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines & Barcelona including Fatima, Avila, Loyola and Lourdes - October 5-15, 2020
- Twelve-day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Rome including a Papal audience February 1-12, 2021
- Twelve-day Pilgrimage to Eastern Europe, including Krakow, Prague, Vienna and Budapest September 13-24, 2021

For general information and photographs, please visit <https://nativitypilgrimage.com> and info@nativitypilgrimage.com.

For brochures and registration forms: www.SantaTeresaChurch.com/pilgrimage

For more information and to register, please contact: Jen Vazquez: Jen@SantaTeresaChurch.com or call Jen at: 1-408-629-7777.

From the church steps:

Altar flower arranger needed:

We are grateful for the help arranging flowers for the STA altar provided by Hee Kyung Kim over the last year. But Hee is not able to continue, so another willing volunteer is needed. This is at most a monthly task for each person on the flower team. You will be trained and given direction about securing flowers and vases. ▪

Please contact Sally Benson: (408) 464-0750, sallymbenson@gmail.com.

Three Wise Men have moved:

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, and the three Wise Men



have moved around the corner to offer homage to the Christ Child!

Thursday, January 23: Dinner For Heart and Home Cooperative Guests

The Heart and Home Collaborative shelter is providing a safe and warm sleeping space for about 15 enrolled unhoused ladies. Our parish is continuing its commitment to provide another meal to the ladies on Thursday, January 23rd at University Lutheran church on Stanford Ave.

We encourage parishioners to prepare a small homemade dish for 6 or more as a personal contribution to this dinner to support the efforts of many people to house these ladies during the cold, wet winter nights.

Please call Human Concerns Committee rep Terry at 650-714-2131 for any questions, \$ donations or food contributions. Thank you.

Church exterior painting:

The parish Building and Equipment Maintenance Committee has contracted with Teevan Painting for consultation on the status of the exterior siding of STA church.

Teevan has been in business since 1963 and has expertise in painting and restoration of historic buildings. They will look beneath the surface and advise us on the structural fitness of the church building as well as on the scope of work to prep the exterior siding and do the painting. And if they are selected to do the actual work, we will receive credit for the consultation fee.

[Take a look at the church siding as you go down the ramp. The flaking of the paint is now very noticeable. This restoration is necessary.]