

Steeple Talk

Volume 13, No. 10

February 2, 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 Lohngoen on January 26.

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.

Crab Dinner Dance Feb. 22:

The 22nd Annual STA Crab Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, February 22, in the Seton School auditorium. Tickets may be obtained from Knights of Columbus now or after Masses on Feb 1/2nd, Feb 8/9th and Feb 15/16th weekends. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

The KofC Palo Alto Council of STA Parish is asking parishioners for donations of new or gently used items or services (carwashing, wine tasting party, babysitting hours, progressive dinner, event tickets, etc) for the silent auction table at the Feb 22nd, 2020 Crab Dinner Dance.

Please call Jerry Lucha (650) 424-9660 or Charles Guenzler (650)387-4268 to coordinate drop off of your donations.

Garden grooming Feb. 15:

Please join Vicki Sullivan for a Garden Grooming of the STA church gardens on Saturday, February 15th, 9:30 - 12 noon. Bring garden gloves. Vicki will have tools, extra gloves, and bagels.

The garden needs fluffing and tidying up. The Homer St. side needs weeding before the weeds get too big. We will spread compost and mulch to control weeds and perk up the plants, as well as add azaleas to the driveway. Many hands will get the job done quickly. Please let Vicki know that you can join her: vickisullivan@comcast.net. or 650-327-5339.

No Fish Fest in Feb. & Mar.:

Attend the Feb. 22 Crab Dinner or the March 14 St. Patrick's Day Dinner instead of the STA Friday Fish Fest supper in those months.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Discover Thomas House Library collection:

During hospitality after 8:45 Mass on Sundays (& open till 10:45), please stop by the Thomas House library and browse the book collection. There are books in the living room, the hall, and the library itself, about the lives of saints, church history and a collection of books about or written by Thomas Merton. There is a binder with a sign-out sheet for borrowers.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, February 5, 2020,
7:00 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Review Christmas décor
- ◆ Volunteer needs
- ◆ Memorial plaques
- ◆ Teevan proposal
- ◆ 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 January 5, we welcomed:

8:45 am Mass:
Emeka Nwosu with Angelica, Alexander & Alfred, Palo Alto

10:30 am Mass:
Mark Wilde & Christabelle Lefrehr, Palo Alto
Kingsley Afemike, Stanford
Jae Hyung Hong, Foster City

Basement kitchen flooded :

On January 5, a plumbing incident occurred in the Thomas House basement kitchen. A sewer line backed up and erupted into the kitchen sink and overflowed onto the floor.



Fortuitously, the disaster was discovered when the Thomas House was filled with people enjoying coffee and donuts after 8:45 Mass. A plumber was called, the stoppage was cleared, but the floor and cabinetry were damaged. This is a rarely used kitchen, but it must be rehabbed with flooring, a new cabinet and counter top. ***If you could help us with a plan,*** please let Helen Baumann know: 650-327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com.

**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:

SAFE Parking at Palo Alto churches Feb. 4:

A few houses of worship that have been involved in exploring a SAFE Parking partnership with our City, County, and local nonprofits that provide either case management or parking lot operations are meeting at 1:30 pm at Peninsula Bible Church on Tuesday, Feb. 4th.

"Lots of Love" which operates the program in Mtn View and Philip Dah with Lifemoves will be joining us.

—Eileen Altman, Assoc. Pastor, First Congregational Church of Palo Alto

Clergy abuse discussion Feb. 8:

Come Saturday, February 8, to Our Lady of the Rosary Hall at 3:00 p.m. for a conversation on "*The Future of the Church in the Light of the Clergy Abuse Scandals,*" with Dr. Rosemary Ellmer.

At the request of Bishop P.J. McGrath, in the fall of 2018 clinical psychologist Rosemary Ellmer moderated the four diocese-wide listening sessions held to seek in-

put from people in the pews on the pathway to reform and to listen to those victimized by clerical sexual abuse. She has written and spoken about her personal reaction to what she heard and challenges all Catholics to be a community of hope and healing if the Church is to survive.

All are welcome. No reservation necessary. Wine and cheese during the Q & A following Dr. Ellmer's remarks. Sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center.

Heart and Home Collaborative Women's Winter Shelter -Feb.14:

University Lutheran Church on Stanford Ave.

The Stanford-founded Heart and Home Collaborative shelter is providing a safe and warm winter sleeping space for about 15 enrolled unhoused ladies. Several parish volunteers contributed to a plentiful meal on Thurs., Jan. 23. Thanks to those contributors from our site!!! A second date of Fri., Feb.14 has been selected. Contact Terry Atkinson at 650-714-2131 to help.

From the church steps:

Altar flower arranger STILL needed:

We are grateful for the help arranging flowers for the STA altar provided by Hee Kyung Kim, Margie Harrington, Nancy Hannibal and Elaine Jek over the last year. Ann Jumadas provides the orchids for the side altars.

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. (Some weeks following Christmas and Easter, it is just watering the poinsettias and lilies, respectively.)

Volunteers are trained and given direction about securing flowers and vases.

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

Parrots of Palo Alto visiting STA:

The flock of parrots in the photo below (taken on Jan. 28 by Helen Baumann) were visiting our church.

A quick Google search turned up multiple stories about the parrots of Palo Alto, back at least to 2007. This variety of mitred conure is native to Peru and Ecuador; our visitors are likely descendants of escapees from Monette's Pet Shop on California Ave. (closed long ago).



Bright green and quite raucous, the parrots garner attention wherever they go.

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.

Teevan's representative has been at the church this past week, and his investigation showed that our beautiful church is in excellent condition on the inside (meaning no water damage from leaky roof or siding). Now we just need to get the exterior brought up to the same standard of care."

We are expecting a comprehensive analysis of the state of the exterior and a proposal for the repairs from Teevan in the next 30 days.