

Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 11

January 8, 2012

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Volunteer sacristans are needed to help with the tasks of opening and shutting the church and getting the altar ready for Mass. Contact Arlen Hagen, (650) 493-8139.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Marijane Chestnut played the piano and led the congregation in song on Christmas Day.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Christmas Eve's 6:00 p.m. Mass (there was no 8:45 on December 25) enjoyed the combined choirs (Eke Family Choir and Larry Schemel and the Community Singers) leading the communal singing.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Music minister Paul Prochaska is developing a bell choir. If you want to know more, ask Paul after Mass what might be happening and what he needs.

12:00 Sunday Mass: Come to a special Candlemas celebration on Wed., February 1, at 8 pm, for candlelight procession and Sung Mass in Latin.

12:15 Daily Mass: Stop in for Mass on your lunch hour and stay on for the Rosary.

Thomas House buzzing with activities:

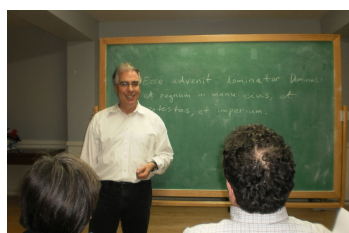
The two public floors of the Thomas House—the basement hall and the main floor—are hosting an increasing number of varied activities. There is plenty of room still for meetings and gatherings of parishioners intent on any number of community and spiritual goals.

Consider the range covered in just the few months since the renovations were completed and the house made habitable:

Regular parish committees or ongoing groups:

- 1) the Pastoral Stewardship Council on the 2nd Wednesday night in the basement;
- 2) STA Site Committee on the 2nd Thursday in the Library;
- 3) STA Interior Committee on the 3rd Wednesday evening in the Dining Room;

- 4) the Merton Center Board on the 2nd Thursday in the Dining Room;
- 5) Merton Center Liturgy Team on the 2nd Monday in the Dining Room;
- 6) Merton Center Adult Education Team on the 3rd Monday in the Library;
- 7) Merton Center Book Club on the 3rd Sunday morning about 10:30 a.m.



Kevin Rossiter's Latin class

Parishioner-generated meetings:

- 1) Latin class on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings in the basement hall, taught by Kevin Rossiter;
- 2) Ignatian Spiritual Exercises



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on Thursday in the Library led by Nancy McGaraghan; 3) Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons in the St. Francis living room, led by Charlotte Gross.

4) Goretta Group lecture meetings on the 1st Friday evening of the month in the basement hall.

Sunday hospitality gatherings following the 8:45 and 12:00 Masses.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting: 2nd Thursday of the month (This is a change from 4th Wednesday.)

Next regular Site meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2012, 7:30 p.m.
Thomas House Library

Agenda:

- Garage cleanup
- Storage space for groups
- Usage update

Monthly newsletter: Sunday before 2nd Thursday

Editor: Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Thomas House update:

Credenza and shelves in Library: Thanks to Jan Dedek for the custom credenza and shelving unit that he is building for the Thomas House Library.

Stop by the house after Mass and admire the beautiful workmanship of this piece which will house books and reading materials which will be available for borrowing by parishioners interested in religious/spiritual/philosophical subjects.



Helen Baumann & Anna Jaklitsch outside the Bride's Room.

Handicapped entrance:

Here are Helen Baumann and Anna Jaklitsch inspecting the

door to the Bride's Room just installed at the top of the handicapped ramp in the back of the Thomas House.

Take a stroll to the rear of the Thomas House and amble up the serpentine ramp that ends at this wide, welcoming portal. Still to be built is a safety gate, which will be located just behind where Helen is standing. It will prevent any missteps at the top of the short alternate stairway to the ramp platform.

**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	Philip Boudart
Anna Jaklitsch	Judy Foley	Lorraine Dabney
Bill Mahrt	Bob March	Mike McMahon
Bea Peterson	Patti Robison	Mario Veloro
Kay Williams	and occasional others	

Mission Statement: The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to encourage community-building within our six individual Mass communities, among our Mass communities, and within the larger parish community. We do this by enhancing our liturgies, exercising responsible stewardship of our facilities, and working to improve communications at all levels of our parish community.

Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 2nd Thursday of the month in the dining room of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

Planning Christian burial:

Come to a workshop, “Pre-planning Your Christian Burial,” on Saturday, January 28, 10 a.m. till 12:00 noon, at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall.

The primary presenter will be Msgr. Joseph Milani (retired from St. Joseph’s Cupertino). Also present will be Zoe Alameda from the Alameda Family Funeral Home, and Catholic Cemeteries representative Kathy Fanger, who is also a Family Service Counselor.

Spirituality Tuesday Assemblies at 7 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Center:

Tuesday, January 10:
[Continuing with the video series, *Key Moments in the History of the Catholic Church*] **The Early Middle Ages and the Church.** The monastic period grows; we learn about St. Basil the Great and St. Benedict, among others. How did monasteries contribute to orthodox faith? Outside pressures contribute

to the fall of Rome and the Empire is shattered. The Early Middle Ages see Viking attacks, the rise of Islam—and the Church perseveres. Moderated by our pastor, Fr. Matt Stanley.

Tuesday, January 17:
Creating a Solid Marriage, with parish associate vicar, Father Peter Seimas, practicing clinical psychologist. Fr. Peter will present the “meat and potatoes” of The Gottman Theory for Making Relationships Work.

Tuesday, January 24:
The Exodus Experience: Now and Then: *The Jewish Master Story*, with Rabbi Shelly Waldenberg.

Tuesday, January 31:
Vocation Stories in the Old and New Testaments, with Rev. John Kselman, S.S., professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park.

From the church steps:

Reserve a room in Thomas House:

The Thomas House public spaces are available to STA parishioners for meetings and events on a continuing or one-time basis. To check availability online, go to www.paloaltocatholic.org, click on “eCalendar,” and then click the down arrow (∇) in the “All Interest Groups” box; select “STA” and you will see what is currently reserved in the Thomas House. Then call Sandra Pederesen at the Parish Office, 650-494-2496, to reserve space.

Time for building the Thomas House library:

With the building of the lovely shelves by Jan Dedek that are enhancing the Library, the Site Committee is eager to fill those shelves with books. Especially desired are books on Christianity, religions of all kinds, Church history, saints, writings by great Christian/Catholic

thinkers, and books on theology, philosophy and sociology. Most of these topics are timeless. The intention is to have this library open to the public—like a Christian Science Reading Room—so someone doing some sort of treatise or research may have a use for an old book. Contact Ted Baer (see below) to arrange for review and pickup of your books.

Furniture pieces still desired for the Thomas House include a large Mission style solid dining table, a parsons style table or sofa table for the main foyer, small side tables for the living room, and a rug for the Library. Recent donations have included a wingback chair from Mary Sullivan, a standing lamp from Bonnie Shirley, and a corner office desk with overhead cabinets from the Foleys. Contact Ted Baer at (650) 321-6179, tabaer@sbcglobal.net for review and pick up.

St. Thomas Aquinas Interior Committee:

Before Christmas the Interior Committee had a meeting with Fr. Chris Bennett who is the chair of the Diocesan Arts and Environment committee. He came to get an update on our progress so he can report back to the Bishop. He gave us some of his ideas to think about when doing this project. We need to get this Diocesan committee’s approval every step of the way. But the plans are improving as attention is being paid to suggestions from various experts. We look forward to a beautifully redecorated worship space later this year.

The STA Interior Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Thomas House. All are welcome. Contact Judy Foley for information: (650) 322-8650, or judybertchfoley@yahoo.com.