

Steeple Talk

Volume 10, No. 7

October 2, 2016

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Worshipping at this Mass is a blessed way to start the day. Stay on for personal prayer time as the church remains open until the 12:15 daily Mass.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. John Hester is celebrating this Mass as usual each week.

8:45 Sunday Mass: New music minister Taber Dullea will be providing song and piano leadership twice a month or more. The congregation is grateful for his presence.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Charlotte Gross, sacristan, is sincerely inviting potential lectors or sacristans to step forward to help at this Mass. Don't be shy!

12:00 Sunday Mass: Enjoy hearing and singing Gregorian chant each week.

12:15 Daily Mass: The church is open all morning before this noon Mass, except on Saturdays.

Garden is composted and mulched:

Thanks to Vicki Sullivan's leadership and support from the parish for materials, the grounds around St. Thomas Aquinas church on September 17 were prepared with water, and then compost and mulch were spread under all the plantings.

Vicki engaged two day workers from Redwood City—Giovanni and Carlos—who were of invaluable help—loading compost and mulch into wheelbarrows and spreading it in every planting area. Jenna Hickey, a member of the STA Youth group, was drafted by Chris Mardesich, our parish Youth Minister, and also brought youthful energy, a strong back and willing spirit to the morning's work. In addition,

volunteers included Larry Sullivan, Terry Atkinson, Helen Baumann, Bob Foley, John Schniedwind, Lara Vaserman and Kay Williams. Refreshments of ice water, lemonade, bagels, cream cheese and fruit kept everyone going during the 3 hours of labor.



Larry Sullivan, Helen Baumann, Giovanni, and John Schniedwind take a break.

Many thanks to all who volunteered. Gardens are always in process, so there will be another chance in the spring to help again.



Bob Foley, Vicki Sullivan, Jenna Hickey, and John Schniedwind finishing up.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, October 5, 2016,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- Mission statement
- Pastoral Stewardship Council reporting
- Church steps

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before first Wednesday

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

STA Site activities:

Newcomers:

On the first Sunday of the month, a parish volunteer stands by a table on the curb outside of church, welcoming newcomers at each Mass and inviting them to sign up as a parishioner. Recent newcomers are:

12:00 Mass:

- Mark Herrera from Fremont

Thomas House Library: Volunteer to keep the library open a couple of hours a week. Contact Ted Baer at tabaer@sbcglobal.net, or 650-690-6732.

Louis Schaefer memorial service: Sun., October 9:

Former parishioner Lou Schaefer died recently in a tragic incident on Hwy 101 when a bolt from a utility truck bounced into his windshield and struck him in the neck. His memorial service will be at 3:00 p.m. at the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd. The Schaefer family requests donations to Second Harvest Food Bank in lieu of flowers.

Meaningful Movies:

Would you like to help organize the next movie series in the Thomas House basement "theatre"? We need a cadre to select, organize and advertise the movies. Contact Kay Williams: 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net

Ellie Webb:

The yellow van that belonged to Eleanor Webb has been removed from the back parking lot. Ellie is doing well at a respite home in Redwood City.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer	Bob Barron	Helen Baumann
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 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 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:

Tuesday, October 4: Spiritual-ity Tuesday Assembly:

Ballot Measures: Aligning Environmental Values with Action, a conversation led by Melissa Hippard, Political Committee Chair, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club.

Melissa will provide background on the history of ballot measures as a tool of democracy and will discuss the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters endorsed measures at the state and local level. These measures include:

Proposition 67: Do voters wish to keep the statewide plastic bag ban signed into law in 2014?

Proposition 56: A cigarette tax to fund healthcare, tobacco use prevention, research, and law enforcement.

Proposition 58: This would overturn restrictions on bilingual education imposed in 1998 by Prop 227.

Location is St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing Ave., 7-8:30 pm, with refreshments.

Saturday, November 5: Parish Holiday Faire, 9 AM to 1 PM, in the OLR Hall.

A fun new feature this year is that ALL holidays are included - Valentines, St. Patrick's, Easter, 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas! Featured items will include handmade holiday pillowcase sets, gift tags, baked goods, and festive decor.

Community Life is collecting holiday decorations the first two weekends in October after Masses. Only new or like-new items, from any holiday! Homemade crafts will be collected up until the week prior to the event.

Come to a Faire prep/crafting session on Sat., Oct. 15, 10-12 noon (even if you aren't "crafty"). There are many tasks that are easy to do. Supplies provided, bring a pencil and scissors. High school youth are invited as well.

Contact Anne Morrison (650.493.2998 / ahbert55@aol.com) or Natalie Lucha (650.494.1178/ nlucha22@yahoo.com)

From the church steps:

Ballot propositions with coffee and doughnuts October 2 (today):

Get your head around the propositions on the California ballot on Sunday, October 2, when the League of Women Voters will present an overview from 10:00—11:00 a.m. in the Thomas House basement hall, immediately following the 8:45 Mass. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the basement.

Of particular note is the contest between Proposition 62 (abolish the death penalty, replacing it with life sentence without possibility of parole) and Proposition 66 (speed up the delivery of the death penalty).

A quick reference right up front: **YES ON 62, NO ON 66.** The League of Women Voters of California has taken a position in support of Proposition 62, as have the Catholic bishops of California.

Come Oct. 2 to understand the difference. The LWV representative will present the 17 CA ballot propositions as time allows.

Altar enhancement:

Have you noticed the new look of the statues of Mary and Joseph above the side altars? Instead of the figures seemingly floating in the air, each statue is now placed in a beautifully crafted frame which

echoes the architectural details of the main altar.



The frames are the handiwork of Jan Dedek, our STA master builder and member of the STA Interior Committee. Jan's art-

istry and skill have been applied to many aspects of the renovation of our church:



tables, trim for pew panels, cabinetry, glassed wall display cabinet, and less obvious essentials like vent grills and gates for the stairway up to the choir loft.

Church stairs & exterior painting:

The Building & Equipment Maintenance Committee continues to review plans for replacing the front stairs of STA as well as for painting the exterior of the church building. Suggested surface treatments of the stairs have included concrete, Connecticut bluestone, and granite. Also needing replacement are the foyer tiles at the top of the stairs. Decisions have to be made by the responsible committees—a slow process!