

Steeple Talk

Volume 10, No. 4

July 3, 2016

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: With priests coming and going this month, there were days when no priest could celebrate Mass, so a Communion service was held instead.

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

8:45 Sunday Mass: All men in the congregation on Father's Day were blessed by all women present and given (Hershey) "Hugs & Kisses" as they left Mass.

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: See page 2 for news of Gregorian music at the upcoming feast of St. Ann on July 26.

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

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, July 6, 2016,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

- Agenda (tentative):**
- Garden work report
 - PSC report
 - Unhoused guests report

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before first Wednesday

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

Memorial Garden was spruced up nicely:

Many thanks to those who came out on Saturday, June 25, to help plant perennials and clean up the garden areas on the north side of St. Thomas Aquinas. The group of gardeners in-



Paul Cauchi, Kariah Voorhees, Vicki Sullivan, Lasaides Voorhees

cluded Mike McMahon, Larry Sullivan, Margie Harrington, Anna Jaklitsch, Terry Atkinson, Margaret Capriles and her



Mike McMahon prepping a hole

grandson Paul Cauchi, and Sandy Voorhees and her granddaughters Kariah and Lasaides Voorhees. Vicki Sullivan was the director of the activity and the supplier of the 50 dwarf agapanthus plants (from her own garden) and the azaleas and hydrangeas which Vicki had rescued from the Easter altar.

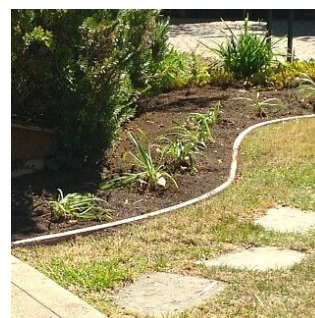


Sandy Voorhees and Margaret Capriles take a break.

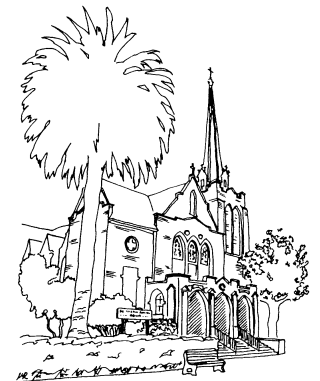
The two men, Mike and Larry, provided the muscle needed to dig the holes for the 60 plants. The kids raked and swept and patted dirt around the plants and pulled off dead leaves from existing plants. Anna and Vicki made sure the



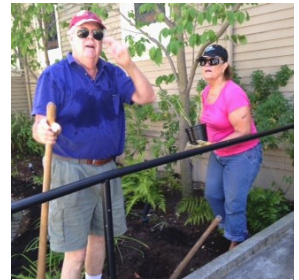
Lasaides Voorhees patting down a plant



The finished product!



St. Thomas Aquinas Church



Larry Sullivan and Margaret Capriles surprised by the camera.

gardeners had ice water and guided the crew in the various tasks.

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:
• Jan Sturdy of Mountain View

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.

Parish disaster preparedness project:

Would you like to be on a team based here at STA to study a communications plan that would guide us in the event of a disaster occurring here in Palo Alto? The parish Facilities group is working with the City of Palo Alto to implement such a plan—starting with the installation of short-wave radio transmitter/receiver in the church choir loft. Contact Helen Baumann: hbaumann@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	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:

Hotel de Zink in August:

Our parishioners will be taking food to the Hotel de Zink (homeless shelter) at the Christian Reformed Church on Arastradero Rd. during the first two weeks of August. Please check your calendars to see which date you would be able to help. Ruth Chippendale will be at the churches after Mass to sign people up during the month of July, or call Ruth at 650-856-6350.

Campers need rides:

One only has briefly to drive through Hidden Villa Summer Camp, just 10 miles and 25 minutes from East Palo Alto, to marvel at the vision Frank and Josephine Duvencik had in starting a multicultural summer camp on their ranch 70 years ago. It gets the children away from unhealthy situations in their neighborhood to a camp community where having fun is a daily criterion.

One missing link every summer is transportation. Volunteers are

needed mostly to drive three day campers from East Palo Alto to camp.

The first camp session started June 20 and the last session ends August 19. Call George Chippendale, (650) 856 6350, for further information and to schedule some days of driving.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday afternoon, September 11: Palo Alto Multifaith Peace Walk and Picnic:

Join together with brothers and sisters of many backgrounds and spiritual traditions as we say “no” to fear and “yes” to friendship by walking together in south Palo Alto to show the way to community and peace.

After the walk we will gather at Mitchell Park for the annual 9/11 Peace Picnic hosted by American Muslim Voice.

Details will be available in August at www.multifaithpeace.org.

From the church steps:

St. Ann Choir celebrates coming feast of St. Ann:

The St. Ann Choir will celebrate a special Mass on St. Ann's Day, July 26, in the evening at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Get your veggies and support local farmers:

Subscribe to the community-supported agriculture (CSA) program offered by NanoFarms, a Catholic workers' co-op offering boxes of freshly picked sustainably grown and pesticide-free vegetables and fruit for delivery in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties form May to December. The boxes cost \$30 a week and contain between 11 and 14 vegetables, fruits and herbs each week.

The produce comes from fields at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. One of the founders of NanoFarms is Fr. George Schulze, S.J., who teaches at the Seminary. Fr. Lawrence Goode, the

pastor at St. Francis Parish in East Palo Alto, also helped get NanoFarms started. NanoFarms is a profit-based workers cooperative. It is an effort to apply the Catholic social justice and economic principles of distributism to modern-day income disparity.

To order, call (650) 817-8801, or email to NanoFarmsUSA@gmail.com, or go to nanofarms.com to sign up for a box of organic, nutritious produce.

Volunteer to ferry donated goods to EPA:

Could you help out once a month by taking the donated food stuffs over to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Closet in EPA? Fred Dietrich has been doing this for years and would love to have relief of a Sunday. He can train you!

Contact Fred at 650-856-2048, fjd4@sbcglobal.net.

Notes (partial) from June 1st STA Site Committee meeting:

Church interior: Judy Foley had carpet samples for the choir loft steps, a project initiated to mitigate the noise of leather soles on the stairs especially during Masses. We agreed to recommend to the parish business manager that the stairs and the landing under the church bell be carpeted to achieve the noise suppression.

Exterior of church: Helen has the Kelly Moore rep and Brian from Burdick Painting (the original contractors for the painting of the church) coming to the church to evaluate the exterior siding: the paint comes off right down to the wood. One theory from Facilities is that we need a vapor barrier below the wood siding. Anna suggested we get another consultant without any stake in the problem; she will seek out such.