

Steeple Talk

Volume 11, No. 8

November 5, 2017

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: New copies of the Stewardship Prayer are now available for the assembly to use to recite the prayer after Mass each morning.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Early-morning folks like this convenient Mass time.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Josie Colbruno's 92nd birthday was celebrated on Oct. 22 with a birthday cake after Mass in the Thomas House.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Music leader Paul Prochaska has composed some new music that is being sung at this Mass.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir is seeking new singers for the Fall, including paid section leaders. Contact Prof. Mahrt for audition at mahrt@stanford.edu.

12:15 Daily Mass: Confessions are heard at 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays before this Mass begins.

Fish Fest Friday, November 17:



All are welcome to the STA Friday Fish Fest on

Friday, November 17, at 6:00 pm at the Thomas House (adjacent to St. Thomas Aquinas Church) at 745 Waverley St., Palo Alto.

We have our own large, portable convection oven now! And a cart was donated by Paul Deisinger to hold and move the oven. So we are ready for the Fish Fest supper this month.

Come prepared to enjoy fish and chips, tasty Asian coleslaw, beer and wine in an informal setting, getting to know STA Mass attendees and others from Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Albert's (nametags make it easy to strike up a conversation).

Lemonade is gratis; \$2.00 for a glass of wine or a beer. Spon-

sored by the STA Site Committee, a \$5 donation would be appreciated but not required. You are welcome to bring a bottle of wine or dessert to share. **RSVP to Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbbaumann@aol.com** (so ample food is available).

In October, Fish Fest diners were treated to a post-meal informal folk music sing-along with guitarist and 8:45 Mass music leader Larry Schemel. Singing helps digestion, you know!

Altar of Remembrance—bring your photos:

During November, we remember our deceased family and friends and celebrate them on our Altar of Remembrance. You are invited to bring photos of your loved ones to display on our Day of the Dead-themed



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

altar, commending them to God and inviting the prayers we can all offer on their behalf.

When you bring pictures, be sure to label them on the back with your name and phone number, so they can be returned to you if you forget to pick them up. The altar will be taken down on Friday, December 1, right before Advent begins.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:

1st Wednesday of the month (except this month!—2nd Wed.)

Next regular Site meeting:

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Friday Fish Fest Nov. 17
- ◆ Living crèche
- ◆ PSC Report
- ◆ Interior Committee

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 stands by a table on the curb outside of church, welcoming newcomers at each Mass and inviting them to sign up as a parishioner. On Oct. 1, the following persons signed up:

10:30 am Mass:
Martin & Stacey Ann Vindiola, Palo Alto
Ednalyn & Debebe Worku, Palo Alto
George Hayward, New York
Lisa & Gordon Smythe, Palo Alto

Garden is groomed:

A cadre of a dozen people joined garden maven Vicki Sullivan and her husband Larry on Saturday, Oct. 14, to spend 3 hours grooming the garden beds surrounding the church and the Thomas House. Even Fr. Daniel Kiriti, visiting from Kenya, was present and was put to work shoveling compost and manure. The workers were nourished with beverages and snacks to keep them going.

Stroll around the church grounds and notice the different flowering plants and foundation bushes. We all can take pleasure in their work, which will yield benefits to the plants during winter months.

Thomas House Library:

Volunteer to keep the Thomas House library open a couple of hours a week. Ted Baer does need help cataloging the many books newly donated. Contact Ted Baer at baer@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	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 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:

During November: food drive accelerates:

You know you can donate food year-round in the baskets in the vestibules of the churches. However, during the month of November, we ask you to be especially generous in your giving to our food collection program. Since most of the people we help are homeless, we ask for foods that are portable and highly nutritious: hearty soups or chili in flip top cans, Vienna sausage, boxes of crackers packed in 'small stacks', fruit cups, granola bars, and juice pouches; also small bottles of water.

S.O.U.P. in November: Your next opportunity to join S.O.U.P. (Sharing Ourselves with Undernourished People) is Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30 p.m. Give it a try!

Over the years this group has donated almost \$100,000 to local charities and to Father Jack Donald, a Palo Alto native who has transformed lives in Central

America. He is part of the International Ministries of the Society of Jesus. The basic plan for SOUP is simple. Three families bring soup to the meeting and a few bring wine and juice. Each person brings a bowl and crackers or bread. We have about an hour of good conversation and a simple dinner. At the end of the meal, each person donates what they would have spent at the market or dining out.. Again, over the years we have raised almost \$100,000.

Advent retreat Dec. 2 with Fr.

Kevin Ballard, S.J.: The TMC Spiritual Education Committee is presenting a morning retreat with Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J. on Saturday, December 2, 9:00 am –12:00 noon at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center. Fr. Ballard will consider Pope Francis's encyclical, *The Joy of the Gospel*, with the emphasis on "joy." So come prepared for a few short hours of joyous prayer, laughter, and community. All are invited. Coffee and morning wake-up snacks will be provided. (Free will donations gratefully received.)

From the church steps:

Altar furniture under review:

Now that the interior of St. Thomas Aquinas church is renewed, it is time to focus on replacing the wooden altar table, the ambo (where lectors stand to read the Word of God and from which the presider delivers his homily), and the presider's chair. The STA Interior Committee has been considering options for designs of altar furniture that echo the architectural style of the church.

The current wooden altar furniture was put in place in 1969, following the liturgical changes mandated by Vatican II (1962-65), under the administration of pastor Fr. Daniel Shea. The white/high altar against the back wall, from which, prior to Vatican II, the priest celebrated Mass, now contains the tabernacle, the place that the consecrated Bread, the Body of Christ, is reserved to be available for the sick and for Adoration.

STA parishioner and master carpenter

Jan Dedek has been researching altar tables from around the world and has spent hours sketching designs and creating cardboard mockups of altars for members of the STA Interior Committee and Site Committee, soliciting their feedback. Just this week, the combined committees met in the church with Fr. Christopher Bennett, Chair of the Diocesan Art and Environment Committee and his committee members to discuss Jan's designs, pictures of other church altars, and the liturgical outlines that guide such determinations. Jan has time in January and February to do the construction. We expect to have settled on the design well before then.

Watch for more information, pictures, designs to come. If you are particularly interested in this subject and have suggestions, contact Judy Foley, chair of the STA Interior Committee, at judybertchfoley@yahoo.com, (650) 322-8650.

Spirituality Tuesday Assemblies:

All talks are held in the Hospitality Center at St. Albert the Great Church, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Refreshments served.

November 7: *The Importance of Planning Ahead: How to plan your funeral.* With Fr. Chris Bennett for Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of San Jose, presenting choices for your or a family member's funeral.

November 14: *St. John of the Cross: The dark night of our soul.* Speaker is Fr. Kevin Joyce, who holds a Ph.D. in spirituality from Catholic University of America, and is chaplain at the Presentation Retreat and Conference Center.

November 28: *Do Religion and Politics Work Together: or are they like oil and water?* Guest speaker is Daniel Baer.