

Steeple Talk

Volume 10, No. 8

November 6, 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: Did you set your clock back last night? Daylight Savings Time ended on November 5th.

8:45 Sunday Mass: New lecturers Lawrence Lopez and Mike and Caitlin Lepeche have delivered the Word of God to the congregation in recent weeks.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Charlotte Gross, sacristan, is sincerely inviting potential lecturers 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.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month
(usually, except this November)

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, November 9 2016,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- **Mission statement**
- **Church exterior work**
- **Emergency preparedness**

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before first Wednesday

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

Thoughts from our pastor:

Fr. Matt Stanley, STA's pastor, has posed 10 points about the state of the Catholic Church which discuss "An Uncertain Future." He posed these points to the Pastoral Stewardship Council in September and asked each representative to take them to members of their ministry teams and discuss them.

1. Loss of faith in the Eucharist/Real Presence: what happens when Sunday Mass is no longer the "glue" that connects people to the Church?
2. The Church has lost her moral authority: "the deadliest result of the scandal."
3. Faith vs. science: young people's skepticism of the "fairy tale."
4. The disappearance of the pre-

Vatican II generation: never to be replaced.

5. Faith no longer matters: what difference does it make?
6. "Let the children make up their own minds."
7. Where would we be without our Latino, Filipino and Vietnamese brothers and sisters? What's their story?
8. The Gospel in the public square: don't even think about it.
9. The rise of the Catholic "non-cultural warrior."
10. Why do they stay?

The STA Site Committee has briefly discussed these points and looks forward to a more in-depth discussion at its next meeting on Wednesday, November 9th. These are provocative points to consider.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

We hope you are stimulated to share them with family and Catholic friends. If you are interested in discussing more, please attend the Site meeting. Or communicate with Site chair Kay Williams with your thoughts and suggestions: 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:

7:30: Anna Antonsson, Palo Alto

10:30: Melissa and Morgan Turner, Stanford

12:00: Nick Gardner, Stanford

STA Site Annual Report submitted:

Bob March is the representative from the STA Site Committee to the Pastoral Stewardship Council. He is the author of the STA Site Annual Report which had to be submitted by the end of September. Thank you, Bob, for so ably condensing a year's worth of activities and reports into two pages. The Annual Report, with summaries of activities from

all parish ministries, will be available on the parish website, www.paloaltocatholic.org.

Thomas House tenants to be trained for disaster help:

Jordan Toor and Bobby Baron have volunteered to be trained to operate the short-wave radios installed in the church choir loft as part of Palo Alto's disaster preparedness project under the direction of the Red Cross.

**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, November 8:
NO Spirituality Tuesday Assembly because of Election Day.
Please vote!

St. Albert the Great Flooring Campaign:

At St. Albert the Great Church and Our Lady of the Rosary Church two weekends ago, the St. Albert the Great Flooring Campaign was described to parishioners, and a flyer was included in the Bulletin.

The floors at St. Albert the Great Church are in very poor condition. A parish-wide fundraising campaign is underway to finance the complete upgrading of the flooring throughout this beautiful church.

In the pews you will find envelopes to facilitate your contributions. On November 6 and 13, parishioners attending Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church will be able to speak to representatives from the SAG Site Committee about the flooring project.

Bishop McGrath on election:
In an October letter to Santa Clara County Catholics, Bishop P.J. McGrath wrote:

“As hard-fought as many of our elections have been, our nation has always succeeded historically in coming together in a mature and civil manner, for the benefit of all, for the good of all of the people. No matter the outcome, we have united — in word and in deed — as one nation....This year’s contentious and unsettling presidential race threatens our ability to come together as one people. The claims by some of our fellow citizens that they will not accept the final outcome of the election borders on the seditious, portending a future that would be neither civil, nor true to our common roots as Americans. We cannot do this. It is not who we are, not who are called to be....May God bless you all and may all...come together as “one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all....”

From the church steps:

The Book of the Names of the Dead

During the month of November, a special book is placed near the Easter Candle in each of our churches. You are invited to inscribe the names of your departed family members and loved ones in this book. These people will be remembered in the prayers of our parish community throughout the month.

Here at St. Thomas Aquinas church, the Altar of Remembrance reflects the Mexican tradition of *Dia de los Muertos*. Set up under the statue of Mary, the table has candles and flowers. You may bring pictures of your deceased loved ones to place on the altar (please mark the back of the picture with your name and phone number). The altar will be dismantled after Mass on November 27, and unclaimed pictures will be stored in a box at the entrance to the church.

STA Interior Committee:

Judy Foley reports that the current effort is to come up with the right lighting for the Mary and Joseph side altars. See if you can tell the difference between the two altars in this trial period.

Gently used sturdy shoes needed for Opportunity Center:

If you have any gently used sturdy shoes in your closet that need a new home, the Opportunity Center really needs them! Comfortable sturdy walking shoes are most appreciated. Every day clients ask for shoes but there are none to give.

To help alleviate this need, the Human Concerns Committee is placing a collection box at each parish church site in November through December. We thank you and are most grateful for your donations.

—The Human Concerns Committee

STA exterior needs painting:

Helen Baumann is recruiting helpers to form a committee to figure out what to do about painting the exterior of the church. If you have an eye for painted siding, you might have noticed the bubbling and peeling on the church structure, especially on the Homer side. Experts consulted so far have advised that wooden siding needs re-painting every 7-10 years, and we are in that range now at STA.

The investigation has been started, but we really need some help from interested and perhaps even knowledgeable volunteers. This will be a collaborative project with the Parish Building and Equipment Maintenance Committee, which has requested that the STA Site Committee come up with some volunteers. Please step up and contact Helen Baumann, hbbbaumann@aol.com, 650-327-9236.