

Steeple Talk

Volume 11, No. 10

December 31, 2017

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: The 3 parish priests rotate presider duties through the week: Pastor Fr. Matt Stanley, and Parochial Vicars Fr. Mike Mazzingan and Fr. Stasys Mikalonis.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. Sev Kuupuo has been celebrating this Mass over the Christmas weekend, taking Fr. John Hester's post when necessary.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Today is music leader Taber Dullea's last day leading communal singing before his permanent move to Marysville.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. Stanley and Fr. Gazzingan are regular presiders at this Mass.

12:00 Sunday Mass: On page 2, see the information about New Year's Eve and Epiphany liturgies with music from the St. Ann Choir.

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

Nativity crèche on display:

If you enter the church from the Homer St. side, or park on Waverley past Homer, you may not have noticed the Nativity scene unfolding in the Memorial Garden adjacent to the church on Waverley.



The figures were installed the week before Christmas with the invaluable help of the parish maintenance staff members, Godofredo Alfaro and Santiago Aguilar, under the watchful eyes of Helen Baumann. Artistic direction from an interested parishioner (who prefers anonymity), greatly enhanced the dramatic impact

of the manger sheltering the Holy Family, the donkey and lamb nearby, viewed by the shepherd and child, guarded



by the hovering angel, and targeted by the Wise Men.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Epiphany weekend event:

On Jan. 6 & 7, come to the Thomas House during open house (3 -7:00 pm) for a series of Epiphany events--creative explorations of the heavens and stars as witnessed by the original Wise Men. Astrophysicists, sky watchers, philosophy library mavens, as well as dark chocolate lovers, are all welcome!

Questions? Kay Williams (& Chris S.): 650-270-4188; kaywill@pacbell.net

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, January 3, 2018,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Nativity scene debrief
- ◆ Epiphany weekend events
- ◆ Friday Fish Fest Jan. 19
- ◆ PSC Report
- ◆ Library Report

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 Dec.3, nine persons filled out the form, and five consented to be identified publicly:

8:45 Mass:
William & Menka Sethi-Riggs, PA

12:00 Mass:
Robert & Jutta Ferrer, PA
Dominic Latino

Friday Fish Fest, January 19:



The next **Fish Fest is Friday, January 19,**

6:00 pm in the Thomas House! Join fellow parishioners who attend the various STA Masses, and enjoy our supper of fish and chips, tasty Asian coleslaw, & beverages. We hope to have a post-meal sing-along, pending our musician's availability.

Beverage service includes:
Lemonade and water: gratis

Glass of wine or a beer: \$2
\$5 donation for the meal would be appreciated.

You are welcome to bring a bottle of wine or dessert to share.

RSVP to Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbau-mann@aol.com.

The RSVP is very important, so we are sure to have enough fish!

**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:

A Christmas "thank you" from your Parish staff:

Thank you for your expressions of kindness and love, for your remembrance of us in your prayers, and for your generous support of our work throughout the year. We are privileged to be called to serve you. We also extend our deepest gratitude to those who helped prepare our churches for Christmas, as well as to those who donated cash gifts towards our poinsettias and flowers. A special thank you to all those who served as Environment Team, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Hospitality Ministers and Ushers, Musicians, and Choir Members. All of you made this a prayerful and festive Christmas.

Commissioning of Liturgical Ministers:

On the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on January 7, we will commission for another year those who seek to serve the community--to be present to the com-

munity in a special way--as liturgical ministers: Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors, Ministers of Music, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Environment & Art and of Altar & Linen Care. Let us both recognize the special role these people play in contributing to our experience of worship at St. Thomas Aquinas and, if we are not among them, assess our own call to serve the community in some way.

Parish Photo Albums To Be Shipped January 2, 2018:

The parish photo albums are due to be shipped from the LifeTouch company on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Assuming the albums arrive at the Pastoral Center that same week, distribution could start the weekend of January 6-7. Or perhaps the weekend of January 13-14.

Check the Parish e-Bulletin, which comes out every Friday morning about 5:00 a.m., for up-to-the-minute news about this long-awaited delivery.

From the church steps:

St. Ann Choir schedule:

The St. Ann Choir invites all to join the special services in Gregorian chant and polyphony over the New Year's and Epiphany weekends:

At St. Ann Chapel (541 Melville at Tasso, Palo Alto):

- ◆ **The Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Eve):** First Vespers of the New Year music of Josquin, Dufay, and Mouton: Sunday evening, December 31, 8:00 p.m.

At St. Thomas Aquinas Church:

- ◆ **The Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day):** Monday, January 1, 12:00 noon, Morales, *Missa Caça*
- ◆ **Epiphany:** Sunday, January 7, 12:00 noon (transferred from January 6): Byrd, *Mass for Four Voices*.

Altar decorators are nimble:

Did you ever wonder how the poinsettia plants make it to the top level of the STA altar?

Fortunately, a couple of the 8:45 Liturgy Team members are nimble enough to climb onto the altar and do the placement of the poinsettia pots.

The hanging of the canvas backdrop behind the man-



Sally Benson & Maureen Locke hand pots to Judy Washburn.



Rudy Jaklitsch satisfied.

ger was ably done by Rudy Jaklitsch, Bill Voorhees, & Bob Foley--another feat made possible by nimble ladder climbers.

The many poinsettias were put into place around the altar table and ambo by Terry Atkinson, Mary Connors, Michelle Hogan, Kay Williams, John and Marlene Arnold--all stepping carefully around the drop cloths, piles of pine branches, and plastic saucers littering the altar area.

The Nativity crèche figures are stored in the choir loft. Good knees and balance determine who brings them down the stairs. They lined up waiting to be placed on stage!



In line for confession!