

# Steeple Talk

Volume 12, No. 9

December 2, 2018

## News from the STA Mass communities: :

**7:15 Daily Mass:** Ruth Chippendale takes Communion hosts from this Mass to parish residents of Sunrise each week.

**7:30 Sunday Mass:** The early morning crowd fills the church for this Mass, which is usually completed by 8:20 a.m.

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** A guest pianist & cantor will be leading the congregational singing on Dec. 2.

**10:30 Sunday Mass:** Paul Prochaska is the lead music minister and welcomes singers/musicians who would like to join him. Find him after Mass.

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** Gregorian Mass anticipated for Immaculate Conception, Friday evening, December 7, 8:00 p.m. The choir will sing Gregorian chants for the feast and the Mass for Three Voices by William Byrd.

**12:15 Daily Mass:** A welcome lunch time destination for Catholics who work in the neighborhood--and the church remains open until 5:00 p.m. each day.

## Return of Nativity figures:

Keep an eye out for the return of the Nativity silhouettes,



coming soon to the Memorial Garden area.



If you would like to add to the collection (a resting cow, "Peace" lettering, etc.), please contact Helen Baumann, hbbbaumann@aol.com.



## Christmas Mass schedule in STA parish:

**Christmas Eve –**

**Monday, December 24th**

5:00 pm Family Mass – Our Lady of the Rosary

5:00 pm Family Mass – St. Albert the Great

**6:00 pm – St. Thomas Aquinas (Sponsored by Merton Center)**

7:00 pm – Our Lady of the Rosary (Spanish)

**12:00 am – Midnight Mass St. Thomas Aquinas (Latin/Gregorian)**

**Christmas Day –**

**Tuesday, December 25th**

**7:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas**

9:00 am – St. Albert the Great

10:30 am – Our Lady of the Rosary

**10:30 am – St. Thomas Aquinas**

**12:00 Noon – St. Thomas Aquinas (Latin/Gregorian)**



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

## Update on memorial plaques in STA Memorial Garden:

As part of the refresh process underway to clean the marble pillars which hold the brass plaques with names of deceased parishioners, some plaques are being removed by contractors who are giving estimates on the cleaning of the pillars. They are in safekeeping and will be restored in due time.

## STA Site Committee plans:

### Monthly Meeting:

1st Wednesday (usually) of the month

### Next regular Site meeting:

Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

### Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Interior Committee report
- ◆ Church exterior: stairs, etc.
- ◆ Event planning: Fish Fest, installing creche figures

### Monthly newsletter:

Sunday before Wednesday meeting

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

## STA site activities:

### Newcomers:

On November 4, the following persons registered as new parishioners in St. Thomas Aquinas parish:

### 10:30 a.m. Mass:

**Elizabeth Guerin**, Palo Alto  
**Bobby & Laura Schneider**, Stanford

**Mark Spear & Kathleen Harper**, Mountain View.

You are most welcome here!

**FOUND:** on sidewalk outside church on Nov. 11, a signet ring. Call Helen Baumann, 650-520-3061 (cell).

### Friday Fish Fest:

**Dec. 14 at 6:00 p.m.:**



Fish Fest! Tasty breaded fish filets and the ever-tangy

Asian cole slaw will be served at the Thomas House on Friday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. We are hoping for a post-prandial sing-along under the guitar of one of our music ministry leaders.

Many thanks to people who generously bring snacks and desserts to share as well. All this for only \$5 per person,

plus \$2 for a beer or generous glass of wine.

Join fellow pew-mates and friends who take advantage of this satisfying meal, chat and laugh together, enjoying the liberation from deciding "what's for dinner?"

### IMPORTANT TO RSVP:

Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbbaumann@aol.com, or Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

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

751 Waverley Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

**St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:**

**Ted Baer**      **Helen Baumann**      **Lorraine Dabney**  
**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:

### *Seton Library needs volunteers:*

Seton School turned its library into offices about a year ago, and the library books need to be catalogued before being installed in other classrooms. Vicki Sullivan is looking for volunteers to help with this project on Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Contact her at (650) 740-0124, or vick-sullivan@comcast.net.

### *St. Elizabeth Seton School Lighting Project:*

There are many upgrades/repairs needed in our parish. A priority is upkeep on St. Elizabeth Seton School, run by the Daughters of Charity at the St. Albert the Great Church site. It provides education to kids mostly from East Palo Alto. Over the years the Daughters of Charity have done a great job in keeping up with the property, renovations and even building new sections.

The next project in cooperation with our parish is to upgrade the entire school's lighting system so

that the kids may have better light and also save money on energy bills. A joint 50/50 effort with the school, the project will initially cost \$58,000. All are invited to participate in this project with a donation in any amount. The parish is expected to contribute up to \$30,000. If this speaks to you, please make a donation payable to the parish with a memo note of "SESS lighting" and we will share reports about the progress of this project that will take place during this next Winter Break. Our children will be extremely grateful. God bless you all, thank you! --Fr. Stasys Mikalonis

### *Retrieve your pictures from the Altar of Remembrance:*

They are in a box in the back of church.

### *Daily Missalettes:*

These slim Mass prayer books will now be kept in a basket at the back of the church. Please return after use. Do not remove from the church.

## From the church steps:

### *Christmas altar flowers:*

We need your help in making our church look beautiful for the holidays. If you could contribute a poinsettia (white as well as red) or other white flowering plant, please bring to the church on Friday, Dec. 21, around 9 am when the 8:45 Liturgy Team will be decorating the altar for Christmas. Contact Sally Benson for alternate delivery arrangements: 408-464-0750 or sallymbenson@gmail.com.

### *Wednesdays at St. Thomas Aquinas Church: Adoration & Benediction:*

To offer more opportunities for personal prayer, our parish has been keeping St. Thomas Aquinas Church open daily until 5:00 p.m.

In addition to that, each Wednesday, the parish is offering Adoration and Benediction from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., before closing the church for the

night. You are encouraged to stop by and pray and adore Our Lord.

### *Sunday, December 16:*

#### *The Christmas Story II: The Animal's First Christmas And More!*

All are invited to a performance of the *Christmas Story II: The Animal's First Christmas* (a ballet set to Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite) & Excerpts from *Beyond Happily Everafter*, presented by St. Thomas Aquinas' Young Sounds of Praise and Dance for Joy & Soaring Spirit Dance Ensemble.

#### **Sunday, December 16 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Seton School Auditorium  
**Admission:** \$10 adults; \$5 - children 12 and under. Tickets available at the Pastoral Center & at the door.

Contact Susan Olsen,  
suolsen@dsj.org for more information.

### *Kenya crafts faire December 9:*

Each year Margo McAuliffe brings back handcrafted items from Kenya, which are available to those who make a donation to Kenya Help, a non-profit whose mission is to educate and train women, children and youth in Kenya by providing resources and support.

### **Come to the Thomas House between 9:45 am and noon on Sunday, Dec. 9,**

and enjoy the varied handmade items on display in the Bride's Room on the main floor in the back. There are charming Nativity sets, tree ornaments, colorful woven baskets, soap stone bowls, jewelry, shopping bags, fetching crib mobiles, fabric purses, carved wooden animals, Africa puzzles, greeting cards, and more. These make great gifts as well as home décor enhancements.

For a private viewing in Menlo Park, contact Margo at (650) 322-0821.