

Steeple Talk

Volume 12, No. 4

July 8, 2018

News from the STA Mass communities: :

7:15 Daily Mass: New sacristans from among those attending this Mass have been tapped: Ruth Chippendale and Fran McVittie.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Bea Peterson, Gerard Wen and Gina Craig are sacristans and music coordinators who keep the backstage Mass tasks covered.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Fr. Larry Percell, retired pastor from St. Nicholas in Los Altos, often celebrates this Mass. He brings his widowed status into every homily, a surprise & delight to newcomers and a comfort to all.

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: Prof. Bill Mahrt leads the St. Ann Choir and the congregation in Gregorian chant every Sunday at this Mass.

12:15 Daily Mass: The church is open from the 7:15 Mass until after this 12:15 daily Mass.

Friday Fish Fest July 13 at 6 pm:



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

Asian cole slaw served at the Thomas House on Friday, July 13, at 6 p.m. Who can resist? 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, hbbaumann@aol.com, or Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Gratitude for gardeners:

The hardy crew of gardeners who gathered on Saturday, June 9, at STA were welcomed with good weather, many hands, and tools and wheelbarrows galore. The spreading of compost and mulch occupied them for the first hours, and then lead gardener Vicki Sullivan brought out the azaleas and hydrangeas that she had collected from the Easter altar and nurtured for two months. Those coddled plants were planted along the driveway behind the church, together with some Peter Pan agapanthus from Vicki's own garden. The results are there for all to enjoy.

Mike McMahon



St. Thomas Aquinas Church



Katie Cho

Three of many happy gardeners.



Larry Sullivan

STA Site Committee plans:

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

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, August 1, 2018,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):
♦ PSC Reports
♦ Fish Fest updates
♦ Interior Committee report
♦ Church exterior: stairs, etc.

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 welcomes newcomers at each Mass and invites them to sign up as a parishioner.

On May 6, the following person registered:

10:30 Mass:
Luz Guerra, Palo Alto (?)

On June 3rd, the following person registered:

10:30 Mass:
Vu Nguyen, Palo Alto (?)

No July STA Site meeting:

Because the 1st Wednesday in July was July 4, it was decided to defer the regular Site Committee meeting to August 1.

Another edition of Steeple Talk will be published on July 29 with the meeting reminder for August 1. We'll have lots to discuss in August!

Shredder in the Thomas House office:

We now have, in the Thomas House Library office, a working paper shredder available for everyone to use. The very simple instructions are posted right next to the shredder. Please feel free to use it any time that the House is open, whether you have two sheets or two hundred sheets to destroy. Bring your own paper bag to remove your shreddings.

**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:

Welcome Back, Fr. Epie:

Temporarily in residence at the St. Albert the Great Rectory from July 3rd to mid-August, Fr. Franklin Epie (eppie-ay) returns to our parish from Cameroon, in Africa. While he is on vacation this summer, he will celebrate both daily and Sunday Masses. He has been able to visit the last six summers. Fr. Franklin has made many friends over the years who will be so glad to see him back with us.

New Clergy Assignments:

Dear parishioners/friends,
Sunday, July 1 the new clergy assignments became effective throughout our diocese. Most priests remain at their current assignments.

In our parish Fr. Matt Stanley has departed and starts his ministry at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in San Jose. We thank him for his years of ministry at our parish.

Fr. Estanislao Mikalonis (Fr. Stasys) is our new pastor.

We also welcome our new parochial vicar Fr. Anthony Nguyen. Together with these two, Fr. Michael Gazzigan will continue to collaborate in serving faithfully Christ and His people here at our community of Palo Alto. Take a moment to pray for our priests, individually and at home with your families. Also join us to pray all together as a community.

July 11: Peaceful Presence

Held each 11th day of the month (to commemorate 9/11), Peaceful Presence was designed by Multifath Voice for Peace and Justice (of which our parish is an active member) to be a respite from the world, a time to gather our strength and offer prayers and readings from different faith traditions.

Wednesday, July 11
7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
First Congregational Church
1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto

From the church steps:

Feast of St. Ann, July 26:

The St. Ann Choir will observe the feast of its patroness, St. Ann on July 26, 8:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

The choir will sing the *Missa de Sancta Anna* by Pierre de La Rue (ca. 1452-1518, a polyphonic Mass dedicated to St. Ann and including the motet "O salutaris hostia" together with the Gregorian chants for the feast day.

Prof. Mahrt leads the St. Ann Choir every Sunday at Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church sung by choir and congregation, 12:00 noon.

July 17-19: Gregorian Chant Camp for Youth

Campers will be trained in the basics of the timeless sung prayer of the Church, Gregorian Chant. The children will have the opportunity to apply their learned skills at the daily Mass!

Our main instructor will be Gabriela Estephanie Solis, mezzo-soprano. She is currently a student of Notre Dame, studying for a Master of Sacred Music in Vo-

cal Performance. Ms. Solis also studied at Santa Clara University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Music. She sings as a cantor and section leader under the direction of Dr. William Mahrt with the St. Ann Choir.

Dates: 17, 18, 19 of July, 2018

Location: St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park

Hours: 9:30am to 1:30 pm.

Ages: 6 to 17 years

Fees: \$75 Total fee for students of Mater Ecclesiae Academy
\$90 Total Fee for children not students of MAE

What you need:

Registration and Waiver forms. Contact Mater Ecclesiae Academy at (408) 748-1887 or office@materecclesiaeacademy.org. .

What to bring: water bottle and snacks/lunch bags

What to wear:

Comfortable clothes, but please remember that the campers will be in the presence of our Lord daily, so dress appropriately to worship. No transparent or tight clothes, shoulders and knees must be covered.

Chant camp is fun and spiritually fruitful through all the efforts of priests, staff, parents, and young people. It has been a huge success among the youth since our old friend, Mary Ann Carr-Wilson started it seven years ago in Southern California. Thanks to all who have made it possible to bring it to Silicon Valley!