

# Steeple Talk

Volume 10, No. 11

January 29, 2017

## *News from the STA Mass communities:*

**7:15 Daily Mass:** Fr. Sev Kuupuo will celebrate his Jubilee Mass on Feb. 19 at the 10:30 Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary.

**7:30 Sunday Mass:** Fr. Hester is home after several weeks in rehab following the fall that broke his collarbone. He hopes to be saying Mass again soon.

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** Former STA Pastor Fr. George Aranha celebrated this Mass on Jan. 22, and Fr. Jose Rubio celebrated on Jan. 15.

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

## Keep on top of STA events with eBulletin:

### *Sign up for the parish eBulletin:*

The eBulletin is published each Friday morning and distributed to interested parishioners via email. It is designed as a flexible communication tool, with a short publication deadline and unconstrained size limitation.

Please send submissions to the eBulletin to [ebulletin@paloaltocatholic.org](mailto:ebulletin@paloaltocatholic.org). Plain text is preferred, but Word and PDF documents can also be received.

Publication Deadline: 4:00 a.m. each Friday morning. NOTE: Please include the word "Bulletin" in the subject line of your email submission.

If you are interested in receiving the eBulletin each Friday, send an email request to [clundin@stanford.edu](mailto:clundin@stanford.edu). You will be added to "PaloAltoCatholic-EBulletin@googlegroups.com".

### *Spirituality Tuesday talk January 31st:*

**"How to Navigate our Cultural Divide," with speaker Dan Baer, 7-8:30 pm, SAG Hospitality Center.** Recent national and international events have engendered reflection and discourse across the world about political and cultural divisions that run deeper than many people ever realized. Dan will probe the situation beneath the surface. What are humanity's real material, cultural, and spiritual circumstances in the twenty-first century? What are the near-term and long-term goals for our species, and what obstacles stand in our way? Dan will explore the powerful role that narratives and affect-laden images play in people's perceptions of the world and each other as well as the central importance of virtues,



St. Thomas Aquinas Church like humility and perspective, in healing our current political divide. Dan currently serves as Department Chair of Religious Studies at Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep in San Francisco. He earned an MA in Systematic Theology from Saint Louis University in 2003. He lives with his wife and three children in Albany.

## *STA Site Committee plans:*

**Monthly Meeting:**  
*1st Wednesday of the month*

**Next regular Site meeting:**  
*Wednesday, February 1, 2017,  
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library*

**Agenda (tentative):**

- Spring projects
- Altar furniture
- Exterior repairs
- Emergency preparedness

**Monthly newsletter:**  
*Sunday before first Wednesday*

**Editor:** Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto: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 January 1, we welcomed:

**7:30:** Young-Jeh Oh and Mohamed Hadidi, Omar & Mona, Palo Alto

**10:30:** Rita Latu, Jeremiah, Malia, Nano, & Valen Latu, East Palo Alto  
Kory Trebbin, Palo Alto

**Thomas House Library:**  
Volunteer to keep the library open a couple of hours a week. Contact Ted Baer at [tabaer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tabaer@sbcglobal.net), 650-690-6732.

**Citywide garage sale coming this year:**  
The STA Site participated in the Palo Alto Citywide Garage Sale a couple of years ago, earning money for local parish projects, including the St. Albert the Great floor refurbishing project. The

sale is scheduled again for June (most likely Saturday, June 3; but TBD formally by the City in April). A volunteer or two or three to be chief referees for this event are being sought. The city sponsorship of dozens of garage sales that day brings lots of foot traffic to our church site. And recycling your unwanted goods is ecological and economical. Help us target parish projects that can benefit from the money raised. Contact Kay Williams, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto: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	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](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net).

## Parish pathways:

**Parish Photo Album:** Don't miss out on being included in the next parish photo directory. Photography sessions will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall and St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center during February. No photos will be taken here at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. There was an information flyer in last Sunday's bulletin, and copies are available in the back of the church. You can also visit the parish website for the pertinent information: <https://paloaltocatholic.net/>.

**Parish Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
Do you like to knit or crochet? The Prayer Shawl Ministry would love your help creating a simple shawl, one of your own designs, for a person in great need of comfort and prayer. Our Pastoral Home Ministry and other parishioners come to us for a shawl appropriate for a gentleman or lady and we need to provide a good selection for any specific request. Before shawls are wrapped and

delivered, they are blessed by a parish priest following a morning mass with attendees adding their prayers for the creator and the future recipient.

Call Terry at 650-714-2131 or Judi Swope at 650-856-6972 with any questions. Your beautiful warm shawl will provide lots of love and prayers.

### **Knights of Columbus 2017 Crab Dinner Dance Auction**

**Feb. 25:** Our Knights of Columbus Council is asking for donations of enticing, new or gently used items or services or fun events such as a wine tasting or progressive dinner etc. for the auction tables at their 2017 Crab Dinner Dance coming up on February 25th at 6:00 pm. Auction sales benefit St Elizabeth Ston School.

Please contact event Chairman Jerry Lucha (650)424-9660 to discuss your item or idea and arrange drop off or pick up. Tickets go on sale after Masses February 3-4.

## From the church steps:

### **St. Ann Choir events:**

The St. Ann Choir is looking forward to a Solemn High Mass in the old rite on February 2nd, Candlemas, the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of Mary. The Mass begins at 8:00 p.m. here at STA.

### **Volunteer for emergency procedures prep at STA:**

An Emergency Response document has been posted in the STA sacristy and in St. Catherine's Corner. Regular attendees at each STA Mass are needed to be instructed in emergency procedures to be followed in case of an earthquake/fire/medical emergency occurring during the Mass. The procedures are simple, but because STA has only two exits, someone has to take charge and guide people out of the church to safety in the event of an earthquake or fire. "Training" will take a few minutes only! If you are interested in this vital community role, contact Ted Baer, [tbauer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbauer@sbcglobal.net), 650-690-6732.

### **The Heart and Home Collaborative,**

a women's night shelter, is now open for 15 selected homeless women at the University Lutheran church on the corner of Stanford and Bowdoin in Palo Alto. They are providing these ladies a safe, warm place to sleep, support services and nourishment for 6 weeks during the harsh winter nights.

**STA's Parish Human Concerns Committee has committed to providing an evening meal for 15 ladies on Feb. 6.** If you are able, please send asap any donations to the Pastoral Center, 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto 94306, noting Heart and Home Collaborative, so this meal can be prepared and shared.

A group of Stanford students, specialists in social services and community volunteers have come together to provide this needed service. Additional help is most welcome from the community.

Many thanks to all of you!

*The Human Concerns Committee.*

### **Pastoral Home Ministry: A Great Parish Service**

Jesus has a special compassion for the sick and suffering. He wants us to look out for them. If you are ill or homebound, or in a retirement home or a care facility or if you know a parishioner who needs pastoral care, please contact the Pastoral Home Ministry. We will visit them, bring them Holy Communion and, if needed, offer them the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick by one of our priests. Contact me at 650-494-2496 X22 or 650-494-1660 or [fongmt@hotmail.com](mailto:fongmt@hotmail.com).

—*Mary Fong, Pastoral Home Ministry*

### **Church front steps:**

Planning for repair/replacement of the church's front steps continues. Attention is being given to pre-cast concrete as the surface for the steps. Samples of concrete tiles and pictures of other churches with pre-cast concrete steps have been before the relevant planning committees. Stay tuned for more!