

Steeple Talk

Volume 11, No. 1

April 2, 2017

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: New copies of the Stewardship Prayer are now available for the assembly to use to recite the prayer after Mass each morning.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Fr. Hester is recovering well from his December fall. He hopes to be saying Mass again soon.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Msgr. John Sandersfeld, who often celebrates this Mass, is still recovering from his recent illness.

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: See Page 2 for the St. Ann Choir Holy Week schedule. Enjoy Gregorian chant at this Mass each Sunday.

12:15 Daily Mass: The church is open all morning before this noon Mass, except on Saturdays.

Holy Week, Penance, and altar flowers:

Holy Week, April 9-16:

April 11: Parish Seder Meal, 6:30 p.m., in Our Lady of the Rosary church hall, for a traditional Seder lamb dinner, Scripture readings and explanation of the Passover feast. Suggested dinner donation is \$10.

April 13: Holy Thursday's Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary church.

April 14: Good Friday's Celebration of the Lord's Passion, at 12:00 p.m. here at STA, and at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary church (Spanish). Also, Jesus' Seven Last Words and Stations of the Cross at 2:00 pm at Our Lady of the Rosary, with readings and reflection; and at 4:00 p.m. at St. Albert the Great church the "Living Stations of the Cross."

April 15: Easter Vigil, at 8:30 p.m. at St. Albert the Great church.

Reconciliation:

The call to conversion and reconciliation is central to Lent. It is the Church's desire that all Catholics celebrate this sacrament prior to our entry into the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday.

* **The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday** from 11:30 AM 12:00 PM at St. Thomas Aquinas and 4:15—4:45 PM at St. Albert the Great.

* **Two Lenten Penance Liturgies are offered:** Monday, April 3, 7:00 PM at Our Lady of the Rosary and Monday, April 10, 7:00 PM at St. Albert the Great.

Easter flowers for altar:

The Easter altar decorations will be put up on Saturday, April 15, at 9:00 a.m. The Easter lilies always look beautiful on the altar, but they need



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

helping hands ahead of time to get them ready for their showy debut.

If you can stop by to help with the flowers, you are more than welcome. And if you could contribute a potted lily or two, it would be most appreciated. Other pastel spring potted flowers can add a welcome contrast, too. The decorating takes a couple of hours, if there are many hands.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:

1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:

Wednesday, April 5, 2017,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ **Event planning: May Day**
- ◆ **Front porch bench**
- ◆ **Garden planning**
- ◆ **2017 Living Crèche**

Monthly newsletter:

Sunday before first Wednesday

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 March 5 we welcomed:

12:00: Paul Wilson, Palo Alto

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

May Fetè Parade and STA Open House May 6:

Palo Alto's annual May Day Parade on Saturday, May 6, will come down Homer Street and end at Waverley and Heritage Park—right in front of our church. The STA Site Committee opens the church to visitors, serves coffee and lemonade to parade watchers, and presents a welcoming face to the many families who are standing on the sidewalk watching their children

march by in the Scout troops and school bands. Volunteers to help with the beverages are needed—between 9:30 and noon, or any portion thereof.

Contact Kay Williams if you can be part of the team:
650-270-4188,
kaywill@pacbell.net.

Palm Sunday April 8:

Each Mass will begin with the blessing of palms outside the main entrance of the church. Plan on arriving early so as to help alleviate parking and traffic challenges.

**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:

"Before the Flood" showing April 8:

Come on Saturday, April 8, at 2:30 pm to the St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center for a showing of a stirring and informative 2-hour video: "Before the Flood," a 2016 documentary film about climate change.



This April 8 showing is sponsored by the STA Site Committee and the TMC Spiritual Education Committee and is free and open to the public.

Spread the word, bring family and friends. Entertaining education in the neighborhood—don't miss it.

It captures a three-year personal journey alongside Leonardo DiCaprio, Academy Award-winning actor and U.N. Messenger of Peace, as he interviews individuals from every facet of society in both developing and developed nations who provide unique, impassioned and pragmatic views on what must be done today and in the future to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.

Shown originally on the National Geographic Channel, the video is part of National Geographic's commitment to covering climate change and is widely available.

Monday, May 8: 22nd Annual Seton Scramble for Students (Early Bird Pricing before April 10)

You're invited to Seton School's annual fundraising event at the exclusive Stanford Golf Course. A full day of golf that includes Hobees breakfast, boxed-lunch, a Coupa Cafe catered reception with wine, beer and beverages throughout the day, followed by a fun reception and lively auction.

Registration at www.setonpaloalto.org

Contact Carmel Caligaris: development@setonpaloalto.org, or call 650 326-1258.

From the church steps:

St. Ann Choir Holy Week services:

PALM SUNDAY St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Sunday morning, April 9, 12:00 noon Procession with Palms and Sung Mass, including the chanting of the St. Matthew Passion and motets by Morales, Tallis, and Victoria (lasts 1 3/4 hours).

PALM SUNDAY St. Ann Chapel

April 9, vespers, 6:15 p.m. Latin Vespers of Palm Sunday, sung in Gregorian Chant; possible polyphonic hymn & motet (lasts a half hour).

TENEBRAE St. Ann Chapel

Wednesday evening, April 12, 8:00 p.m. Matins and Lauds of Holy Thursday in Latin (anticipated the evening before). Lamentations of Jeremiah and Benedictus by Victoria (lasts 1 3/4 hrs.)

HOLY THURSDAY St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Thursday evening, April 13, 8:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Washing of feet, and Procession of Blessed Sacrament. Music of Byrd, Tallis, & Morales (lasts 1 1/2 hours)

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GOOD FRIDAY St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Friday afternoon, April 14, 5:30 p.m., Solemn afternoon liturgy: Chanting of the St. John Passion, Adoration of the Cross, and Communion. Music of Victoria (Lasts 1 3/4 hours)

EASTER VIGIL St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Saturday night, April 15, 11:00 p.m. The Solemn Proclamation of Easter, the Prophecies, and Midnight Mass of the Resurrection. Music of Palestrina, Morales, and Marenzio (lasts 2 1/4 hrs)

EASTER SUNDAY St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Sunday morning, April 16, 12:00 noon Festive Sung Mass of Easter, Jacob Gallus, Missa Pater Noster for double choir (lasts 1 hour 20 mins)

EASTER SUNDAY St. Ann Chapel

Sunday afternoon, April 16, 6:15 p.m. Latin Vespers of Easter Sunday, sung in Gregorian Chant with polyphony as appropriate.

Bibles for prayer assistance:

We are asking again for donations of Bibles for the book rack on the table on the left side of the church in the back. They can be donated in memory of someone or something special.

For several years, these Bibles have been used by many people who visit the sanctuary. The number of Bibles available has varied from one noticed there recently to as many as seven after the first round of Bibles was donated.



The Bibles are a blessing, particularly to someone searching or going through a difficult time.

Please bring your donated Bibles to the Thomas House library, with a note telling us how to designate it—memorial, personal message, etc.