

# Steeple Talk

Volume 11, No. 2

April 30, 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 was happy to be able to celebrate Mass on Easter Sunday.

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** Fr. Kevin Ballard, S.J., celebrated Easter Sunday Mass.

**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! Look for Charlotte after Mass—she is usually cleaning up the altar.

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** 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.

## **STA Site Committee plans:**

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

**Next regular Site meeting:**  
Wednesday, May 3, 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

## **May Day Parade & STA Open House May 6:**

Palo Alto's annual May Day Parade on Saturday, May 6, will come down Waverley Street and end at Waverley and Homer and Heritage Park—right in front of our church.

The STA Site Committee opens the church to visitors (who can enjoy an organ concert played by Professor Bill Mahrt), 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. We keep the church restroom open—it is a welcome stop for many of the parade-watchers!

Volunteers to help with the beverages are needed—between 9:30 and noon, or any portion thereof. Because the parade

route is closed to cars early Saturday morning, aim to park south of Channing Ave. Let Kay Williams know if you can help out (see sidebar for her contact information).

**PARADE ROUTE:** The May Fete Parade starts at 10 a.m. – rain or shine! The parade will travel down University Avenue, turn right onto Waverley, and end at Heritage Park. Regular entries (without floats) will enter into Heritage Park. Float entries will continue onto Waverley and park between Homer and Channing. All Palo Alto bands will enter Heritage Park and proceed to the stage area where each will be introduced and play one song for the May Fete Fair.

**END OF PARADE:** Following the parade, stick around for



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

the May Fete Fair, sponsored by Palo Alto Recreation Foundation and Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto until 1pm. The Museum of American Heritage will also be having a Vintage Car Show right across the street from the park. Adults are encouraged to dress in the spirit of the parade.

## **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 April 2 we welcomed:

**10:30:** Timothy Sears,  
Clallam Bay, WA

### **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](mailto:tabaer@sbcglobal.net), 650-690-6732.

### **Projects in the works:**

#### **Outdoor Christmas crèche scenes:**

Committee members are investigating a wooden silhouette crèche ensemble that could be placed on one of the lawns adjacent to the church during the Christmas season. Another lively option could be a night or two of a "Living Crèche" scene with real people, and, perhaps, real animals. That would be something to look at, wouldn't it?

### **Bench for church entry porch:**

The Committee is looking for a simple bench to place on the porch under the opening on the right as one enters the church. A bench would provide seating for parents with wiggly children who need a time-out from a Mass, as well as for seniors who need to sit in a sheltered spot while waiting for a ride. (And there is the occasional unhoused person who needs a resting place for the night.)

**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:

### *Change a life..help send a kid to CYO camp:*

For the fourth year, sisters Gwenn Connolly and Karen Vetter are raising funds to help send 30 kids from St. Elizabeth Seton School to CYO Summer Camp this summer. These kids have big dreams and talents — but few resources.

Camp costs \$800 for seven days. With the help of campership funds and a portion paid by each child's family, they are raising \$300 per camper to cover the balance of expenses. Whatever you can contribute will make a huge difference and be tremendously appreciated.

Your donation is tax deductible. Make checks payable to: "CYO Camp Scholarships".

Memo Line: Please write St. Elizabeth Seton School students.

Mail to: Gwenn Connolly  
205 De Anza Blvd, #180  
San Mateo, CA 94402

To learn more about the project:  
[sendakidtocycocamp.com](http://sendakidtocycocamp.com).

### *"Understanding Islam" series:*

**Tuesday, May 9th:** *Fear of a Faith: Sharia. Surveillance. Terrorism. The Muslim Ban.* What's real, and what's not? A discussion of the policies, politics, and current events that affect U.S. understandings of Islam and Muslims. Moderator: Co. Supervisor Joe Simitian. Panelists: Ameena Jandali, Islamic Networks Group and Jihad Turk, President of Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate School

**Monday, May 22nd:** *Women and Islam.* A discussion of what it means to be a Muslim woman, and how Islam intersects with gender in today's world. Moderator: Co. Supervisor Joe Simitian. Panelists: Sumbul Ali-Karamali, author, *The Muslim Next Door*, and Maha Elgenaidi, Executive Director, Islamic Networks Group

Both panels will be from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in the Embarcadero Room at the Rinconada Library, at 1213 Newell Road in Palo Alto. Both events are free, please RSVP at <http://www.commonwealthclub.org/sv> or call 408-299-5050.

## From the church steps:

### *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. It's better to have a few Bibles in the book rack at any one time. Then those who take one to use will understand the implied signal to return it to the rack.

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.

### *Emergency response training at St. Thomas Aquinas:*

Interested parties from the 8:45 Mass community have been trained on what to do should an emergency arise during Mass (fire or earthquake, most likely), using a simple, one-page guide that is posted in the church. We would like to extend this training to the other Mass communities. This is an easy opportunity: the training requires 5 minutes after Mass under the tutelage of Ted Baer. We hope we will never have to implement the procedures, but if several regular attendees at each Mass are trained, we will be covered.

Question #1: How many exit doors from the church can you identify?

Question #2: Do you know where the fire extinguishers are?

Please let us know if you would like to be trained. Contact Ted Baer at [baer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baer@sbcglobal.net), 650-690-6732.

### *Church Interior update:*

Judy Foley reports that the Interior Committee is working with committee member Jan Dedek, master cabinet maker, who is working on designs for a new altar table, ambo (from which the liturgical readings are delivered), and presider's chair. We are looking forward to seeing what comes forth from Jan's creative mind.

The front steps of the church are due for replacement. At this time, Judy is waiting to see in situ samples of the cast concrete material that is the preferred choice for re-surfacing the steps. In the meantime, we urge you to be careful on the steps—they are uneven in places.

Judy is also replacing the memorial plaques on the three benches in the Memorial Garden under the beautiful dogwood trees. The original plaques have faded over the past 15 years.