

Steeple Talk

Volume 12, No. 10

December 30, 2018

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: A devoted group of worshippers attends this early Mass.

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: Pianist Mary Elaine McEnery and cantor Carol Daly will lead the communal singing today.

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: St. Ann Choir will sing First Vespers of the Solemnity of Mary on Dec. 31 at St. Ann Chapel at midnight.

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.

The Wise Men cometh...



If you rarely or never approach St. Thomas Aquinas church from Homer Street, you will not have noticed the placement of the figures of the Three Wise Men.

They are coming around the corner, heading to the manger, where Mary and Joseph and the Infant Jesus are waiting, together with the shepherds and sheep and cow and the guardian angel.

That arrival will happen on the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, January 6.

Knights of Columbus selling Feb. 9 crab dinner tickets now:

It is time to start calendaring your engagements for 2019!

On sale now are 2019 Crab Dinner Dance tickets. These tickets can make the ideal gift for that special someone on your list.

Because the 2019 Dinner is coming so soon (Saturday, February 9, 2019), the Knights are making tickets available now. Holding to last year's price of \$50 per person, tickets might make the perfect gift.

If interested, please contact Grand Knight Charles Guenzer (650) 387-4268 or Jerry Lucha (650) 425-9660 or any member of our Parish's Knights of Columbus.



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, January 2, 2018, 7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):
♦ Interior Committee report
♦ Church exterior: stairs, etc.
♦ Event planning: Fish Fest, Sing-A-Long, other?

Monthly newsletter: Sunday before Wednesday meeting

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

STA site activities:

Newcomers: On December 2, the following persons registered as a new parishioners in St. Thomas Aquinas parish:

8:45 a.m. Mass: Linda & Sean Brennan, Riley & Samantha Fisher, Mt. View

10:30 a.m. Mass: David Bastidas, Palo Alto
Paula Lopez, Palo Alto
Edward & Alberta Anafi, & Russell & Marielle, PA
Santiago & Emily Velez & Marcela, Palo Alto

Friday Fish Fest: January 18 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, January 18 at 6 p.m. 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, hbbau-mann@aol.com, or Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

New front stairs on target:

The pending decision for planners is which color and style of granite will be found--and available in time--for the late April start date of the reconstruction of the front stairs. Stay tuned...

**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:

Heart and Home Collaborative Dinner January 25:

STA Human Concerns Committee is seeking financial contributions for the January 25th Heart and Home Collaborative dinner (Overnight Women's Shelter in Palo Alto). We provided a meal on December 20, so know the drill pretty well.

Write a check and place "H&H Collaborative" in the memo field and place in the Sunday collection. Thanks so much.

NOTE: Cash donations are welcome too. Thanks.

Heart and Home Collaborative is a non-profit organization serving unhoused women in Palo Alto; this year it plans to operate from Dec. 2018 through March 2019.

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.

New Year's Day & Epiphany:

Tuesday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and World Day of Prayer for Peace.

The New Year's Day Mass will be at 10:00 am at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, preceded by a Rosary for Peace at 9:30 am. (No 7:15 or 8:30 Mass that day.) Although there is no obligation to attend Mass on this Holy Day, we encourage all who are able to join us in this celebration.

There is also a Gregorian Latin Mass at 12:00 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, at which the *Missa Caça* by Cristobal de Morales will be sung by St. Ann Choir.

On January 6, Epiphany, at noon at STA, the St. Ann Choir will offer *Missa O magnum mysterium* by Tomas Luis de Victoria.

On January 13, Baptism of Christ, at noon at STA, the *Missa Nisi Dominus*, by Ludwig Senfl, will be sung by the St. Ann Choir.

From the church steps:

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 from 7:15 a.m. 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.

Ring found:

A ring was found on the sidewalk outside the church on Nov. 11. It is a signet ring, one which appears to be well-worn. We'd like to find its owner.

If you can help identify the ring/owner, please call Helen Baumann 650-520-3061(cell), as she is in possession of the ring.

Community Sing-A-Long January 25:

All are invited to join in the community sing-a-long on Friday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Thomas House, (next door to the church), led by Paul Prochaska on the guitar.

The words to familiar oldies are projected on a screen so there's no struggling to keep up. Let your inner crooner or balladeer loose in a non-judgmental, accepting crowd.

The singing goes on for about an hour, longer if the group wants to keep on going. Paul prepares the projection of the lyrics ahead of time, but he's very accomplished and can field some requests if they flow forth.

Paul Prochaska leads the music at the STA 10:30 Mass. He teaches guitar and ukele locally and loves to sing himself. You'll sing better with Paul than you ever dreamed you could!

Multifaith Peaceful Presence January 11:

Let us come together for much needed time of healing, prayers, strength and gratitude: Friday, January 11, 7-7:30 pm, First Baptist Church, 305 North California Avenue, Palo Alto.

Peaceful Presence is a monthly gathering (on the 11th of each month) hosted by diverse faith communities in a service of multifaith prayers for peace and strength for the journey.

Hosted by different faith communities in their places of worship, all are welcome: those of all faith traditions and of no defined faith, those who are suffering at the hands of their own government, those who need a pause in the midst of intensive work on behalf of others, and all who would like to pray with others for the benefit of all.

[Will be held February 11, 2019, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 3233 Cowper St., PA.]