

Steeple Talk

Volume 12, No. 6

September 2, 2018

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. Sev Kuupuo has been celebrating Mass frequently this week. He is in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Stanford Hospital and resides at the parish rectory at SAG.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Though Fr. John Hester has retired, he continues to select the songs played/sung at this Mass.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Sponsored and organized by Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto, this Mass is celebrated by different, mostly retired, priests who appreciate the lay-led structure.

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: A welcome lunch time destination for Catholics who work in the neighborhood.

Picnics for all reasons:

Sunday, September 16, STA Parish Picnic:

Please save Sunday afternoon, September 16, for our annual parish picnic: 11:15 am - 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in the picnic area behind the school building, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

The Knights of Columbus will be cooking up barbecued hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers.

This is a potluck, so please bring a potluck dish for 8, as follows:

Last names starting with:
A-P: salad (green, potato, Greek, macaroni, etc.) or sidedish (beans, chili, veggies)
Q-Z: dessert (anything yummy)

There will be a Free-Cycle event, too, where you'll be encouraged to bring things you no

longer need but are willing to pass on to someone new — all free!

Dance performances, faerie face-painting for young and old, a piñata, crafts and games will make a festive afternoon for visiting with friends and making new ones.

This will also be a great time to meet and congratulate our new pastor Fr. Stasys Mikalonis, as well as your fellow parishioners. Hope to see you there!

September 11 Peace Picnic & Peaceful Presence:

On Tuesday night, September 11, we will conclude the annual Peace Picnic (hosted by American Muslim Voice) with a Peaceful Presence prayer service. The picnic will provide



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an opportunity to meet and chat with neighbors and friends (with complementary pizza) and the Peaceful Presence prayer service will allow attendees to hear from different faith traditions and share a moment of peace and calm in this hectic world. Come to Palo Alto City Hall, King Plaza. The picnic will run from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. and Peaceful Presence from 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All are invited.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, September 5, 2018,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ PSC Report
- ◆ Interior Committee report
- ◆ Church exterior: stairs, etc.
- ◆ Winter Fish Fests
- ◆ Event planning

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 August 5, the following persons registered:

12:00 Mass:

Tyler and Jasmine Stavinoha (and daughter Sofia)

You are most welcome here!

Apartment rental upstairs in the Thomas House:

Tim Foy, our wonderful real estate agent-parishioner, is looking for a new tenant for one of the upstairs TH suites. Obviously, this is a wonderful location, and our parish maintenance wizards, Godofredo Alfaro and Santiago Aguilar, have been hard at work spiffing it up. If you know of a potential tenant, have him or her call Tim Foy of Midtown Realty at 650-321-1596.

No Fish Fest in September:

The August 17 Fish Fest supper was a great success and we especially enjoyed Paul Prochaska's guitar and singing along with all the old favorites. There will be no Fish Fest in September, so that we all can plan to come to the Parish Picnic on September 16. Contact Vicki Sullivan to volunteer to help at the greeters' table at the picnic: (650) 327-5339, or vickisullivan@comcast.net.

**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:

Statement of Bishop Patrick J. McGrath, Diocese of San Jose (August 15, 2018):

The news this week of the historic sexual abuse of minors in six Pennsylvania dioceses is truly horrific. Trust was first betrayed by these attacks on the innocent; however, the systematic cover-up and reassigning of these priests by their bishops and superiors is just as unforgivable.

As I have stated on many occasions, we – the Church and its ministers – must abide by a higher standard. We are called to protect and keep safe children, the young and all vulnerable persons. There can be no short-cuts, nothing that can excuse immoral and sinful acts.

The Diocese of San Jose remains committed to protecting God's children and to fostering the safest of environments in which to worship, learn and live. I echo the bishops in Pennsylvania who have asked for forgiveness. Yet we know that forgiveness does

not absolve perpetrators of the consequences of these grave transgressions against the defenseless.

Finally, I ask you to pray for the victims and their families. I would also request that you pray for the vast majority of priests – present and past – who have been faithful in their ministry. They, too, grieve for the terrible stain of this sin that has harmed so many. May God bless you all.

**Parish Employment Need:
Part-Time Bookkeeper:**

Our pastor Fr. Stasys Mikalonis is seeking a part-time bookkeeper for the parish. He is advertising for an experienced professional in bookkeeping, preferably bi-lingual with excellent oral and written communication skills.

Please contact him at: emikalonis@dsj.org for more information and/or an application.

From the church steps:

Church is open all day:

As of July 30, STA church will remain open every day-- from 7:15 am till 5:00 pm on weekdays, and all day after the weekend Masses. This is possible thanks to a volunteer who responded to Fr. Stasys's request for someone to close up the church on weekdays. This volunteer regularly attends the 12:15 daily Mass, as he works just up the street on Homer Ave. Since he walks home each evening about 5:00 pm, he is easily able to close the front doors of the church as he goes by. On weekends, the priests will close the building. Only the main sanctuary will be open during non-Mass hours; no access to the restroom or the sacristy will be possible.

An open church invites individuals to stop in and pray in the presence of the Lord. All are welcome to pray there.

Pauline Books & Media has new home:

Come Saturday, September 8, from 10 am - 5 pm to the new home of the Pauline Books & Media Center, 3250 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, for the grand opening at this location. The new building has been renovated and has apartments upstairs for the five Pauline sisters in the community. Get 20% off one item; browse books, media, religious icons, missals, rosaries, images, statues, cards, and gifts in a warm and welcoming store. There will be music and food, too.

This local Pauline Books & Media store is run by the Daughters of St. Paul, consecrated sisters, called to live as Apostles in today's world of communications. They are celebrating 100 years of collaboration among religious, clergy, and laity to help people connect with Jesus Christ and the Church in a secular digital culture.

Sr. Irene Loina of Kenya to speak September 22:

The Thomas Merton Center is sponsoring a talk by Sr. Irene Loina, Incarnate Word Sister, visiting from Kenya, on Saturday, September 22, at 10:00 am at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Sr. Irene served in the rural community of East Pokot, where her focus was a mobile medical clinic. She was the recipient of a program, introduced to that area by TMC member Ron Ariagno, called Helping Babies Breathe. She accomplished the organization of a coming-of-age ceremony for 134 Pokot girls, omitting the traditional FGM (female genital mutilation), by convincing local elders, chiefs, midwives and parents to do so. Coffee and bagels for all. Come!