

Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 11

December 20, 2010

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Arlen Hagen performs cantor duties frequently when the liturgy calls for same.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Nancy McGaraghan, regular lector and local writer and spiritual director, is recovering from a ruptured spinal disc.

8:45 Sunday Mass: One of a cadre of priests presides each week: John Sandersfeld, Michael Marini, Jose Rubio, Jerry Brown, S. S., and STA's pastor, Matt Stanley.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Regular lector Margo Wright teaches 5th grade at Nativity Elementary School in Menlo Park. Music leader Paul Prochaska is recovering nicely from a heart attack suffered just before Thanksgiving.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir will sing at the Christmas Eve midnight Mass, Christmas Day at noon and New Year's Day at noon.

12:15 Daily Mass: Stop in for Mass on your lunch hour and stay on for the Rosary.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
4th Wednesday of the month, at 151 Coleridge Ave., Palo Alto (Baumann home, 327-9236)

NEXT MEETING:
Wednesday, December 22,
7:30—9:00 p.m.

Tentative agenda:

- Thomas House updates
- STA Interior updates

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

Editor: Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Thomas House renovation and fundraising moving along:

The Thomas House renovation work is well underway. Installation of the plastic tubing (PEX) has been completed, as a major part of the heating system throughout the building. [PEX tubing is being used to replace the old galvanized pipes; it is more affordable than copper.]



PEX tubing comes in red, white, & blue — imagine it!

The workers are starting to rehang the sheetrock. The handicapped bathroom is starting to materialize. The revised timeline for completion projects a finish date in mid-March.

In the meantime, the Finance Committee reports that \$37,000 has been contributed towards the construction costs. Every contribution, large and small, helps fill the pot. Please add your energy to the healthy stew of community life and outreach that we are creating by renovating this old house. It will become a warm and welcoming place for education, spiritual growth, and celebrations that



St. Thomas Aquinas Church will benefit all area Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Contributions may be sent to the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Office, 3290 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Please note “Thomas House” on the memo line of your check.

Coffee in the “stable”:

Variouly dubbed the “manger” or the “stable,” the carport behind the Thomas House has become the hospitality center for post-Mass gatherings.

Coffee is being brewed right next to the house appliances and radiators stored willy-nilly in the carport bays. It took a Sunday or two to figure out why the extension cord blew its fuse, which plugs to use, how to trick the

light sensor so that the “night” lights would come on in the morning, and how far the rain encroaches under the eaves when the wind blows, but after three weeks of “stable” practice, it seems that coffee and doughnuts bring out the best in people.

Many thanks to Jim Davis's hospitality crew at the 8:45 Mass



Helen Bunje, Maureen Locke, Anna Jaklitsch, Maureen Kennedy, Eleanor Kraft, and Rosana Madrigal after 8:45 Mass in the carport for coffee, etc.

for figuring out the glitches that arose and still making coffee happen.

**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	Philip Boudart
Anna Jaklitsch	Lorraine Dabney	Bill Mahrt
Bob March	Mike McMahon	Bea Peterson
Patti Robison	Mario Veloro	Kay Williams

and occasional others

Mission Statement: The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to encourage community-building within our six individual Mass communities, among our Mass communities, and within the larger parish community. We do this by enhancing our liturgies, exercising responsible stewardship of our facilities, and working to improve communications at all levels of our parish community.

Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 4th Wednesday of the month in the basement hall of the Thomas House (see changes below). All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

Crèche exhibit a success:

The second annual STA Crèche Exhibit was installed at SAG the weekend of December 4 and 5. Many beautiful crèches were displayed, representing dozens of different ethnic groups. Pat Keicher and her team of helpers, deserve a huge "thank you."

This was a great example of cross-parish and ecumenical engagement, as we had representative crèches from all three sites, and a few from the Mormons. Of special note were the many, charming miniature crèches displayed by Susan and Mario Veloro, and the Larry and Vicki Sullivan crèche collection, which filled one whole table. Notable, and very popular, in the Sullivan collection, was their first crèche, which was purchased at F.W. Woolworth the year that they got

married. It brought back many happy memories to all of us who got to view it.

All of the participants enjoyed this opportunity to come together as a parish and share our beloved crèches. We look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition, although we intend to try to adjust the scheduling so that our exhibit does not conflict with the Mormon exhibit to allow our parishioners to take an active role in both displays.

—Helen Baumann

Christmas Masses at STA:

Christmas Eve, December 24:
6:00 p.m. (sponsored by the Thomas Merton Center)
12:00 midnight: Gregorian Mass with the St. Ann Choir

Christmas Day, December 25:
7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

From the church steps:

Decorate the church for the Christmas season:

Many hands are needed to transform the sanctuary and altar for Christmas. The 8:45 Mass Liturgy Committee invites you to join in the effort. **Come Thursday, December 23, from 9-11 a.m.** and help prepare and arrange the dozens of poinsettia plants around the altar.



Maureen Locke and Helen Short working on the Christmas altar in 2009.

Needed also are ever-green boughs which can be brought on December 23 or dropped off earlier in the week and left in the carport.

STA Site Committee meets Wed., December 22, 7:30 p.m.:

With the closure of the Thomas House to parish use for the next few months, the Site Committee is without its regular meeting place in the Thomas House. The December meeting will be at the home of Helen Baumann, 151 Coleridge Ave., Palo Alto (Helen—327-9236) All are welcome to attend.

Fr. Thierry Geris on leave:

Pray for our pastoral associate Fr. Thierry Geris who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and is beginning treatment. Fr. Geris was ordained in May 2009 and assigned to STA as his first assignment. We walk with him as he faces this difficult health challenge.

STA Interior Committee reports:

The Interior Remodeling committee met with Building and Maintenance on Nov 18. We looked at the projects that need to be addressed and broke them into phases. Phase 1 would be the Altar platform area, making this area larger and safer. This project would involve an Architect (required by city of Palo Alto), Construction Company, Design Consultant (for carpet selection at this time), Carpet, and any electrical work that relates to this area.

The Building and Maintenance committee voted to forward Phase 1 plans to Finance, recommending approval with a few suggested revisions.

The Interior committee met December 15th to go over the revisions that B & M asked of us. We will be presenting to them on Monday, Dec. 20. We are hoping to get approval soon for the deposits asked by the Architect and Interior Consultant so they can start working on this project.

—Judy Foley (judybertchfoley@yahoo.com)