

Steeple Talk

Volume 4, No. 12

January 30, 2011

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Joan L'Heureux and Tom Williams are two who help with opening and closing the church during each week.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Bea and Bill Peterson are regular sacristans. Are you interested in helping? Ask Bea!

8:45 Sunday Mass: Judy Washburn organizes the many sacristans who serve in rotation at this Mass. Eucharistic ministers receive communion after the congregation has been served.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Music minister Paul Prochaska welcomes musicians and singers interested in participating in liturgical music.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir will conduct a service on Candlemas, Wednesday, February 2, 8:00 pm, with a candlelight procession followed by Mass sung in Latin.

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

Sunday hospitality space found at Homer House:

Thanks to a timely withdrawal of the renters of the downstairs apartment at 423 Homer St.—a 2-unit building owned by the parish—hospitality has found a roof and warm rooms for the coffee-and-donuts crowds after the 8:45 and 12:00 Masses.

The building is a vintage Palo Alto wood frame house, with two apartments that provide welcome income to St. Tho-



mas Aquinas Parish. When the downstairs unit was vacated on December 31, the parish business manager,

Chuck Tully, suggested that it could be used for hospitality for a few weeks, until it was cleaned up and ready to be rented again.



Decaf and regular!

Needless to say, the volunteers who prepare the coffee and goodies for the two Sunday Masses are thrilled that they can come in from the cold carport. And those who enjoy a few minutes of fellowship, coffee, juice and donuts are quite happy, too.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

This space is particularly appreciated by the St. Ann Choir, as it allows its members to warm up their voices in the hour before Mass and then enjoy their sumptuous hospitality buffet following the Sunday noon Mass.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting: Usually the 4th Wednesday of the month, except in January, 2011. The Site Committee met jointly with the STA Interior Committee on January 19, thereby accommodating the schedules of several Site Committee members.

Next regular Site meeting: Wednesday, February 23. Location TBD.

Monthly newsletter: Sunday before 4th/5th Wednesday

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

Thomas House progress:

The contractors from SC Builders are hard at work in the Thomas House at 745 Waverley Street. The estimated date of completion is March 25, and all indications are that this goal will be met.

The workers are putting up the drywall in the main floor rooms, having completed the re-wiring and plumbing there. The designer has prepared a color board with sug-



Thomas House front door will soon be opened to all.

gested finishes for walls and paneling and flooring, which has been reviewed by the Site Committee and Mass communities.

The fundraising campaign for the final dollars needed to complete the renovation of the Thomas House is on-going, with \$42,000 collected so far against the goal of \$100,000. Please consider a significant contribution to this campaign and secure the right to name a meeting room in the house. Send a check to the parish designated for the Thomas House project.

**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: Carl Bunje



Deacon Carl Bunje was celebrated at a retirement party on January 22, 2011, held at the Seton School Auditorium after the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Albert the Great. Together with his wife Helen, Carl received papal recognition of his over 31 years of service in the Dioceses of San Francisco and San Jose in the form of medals and elaborate Latin certificates. Those formal awards were just the icing on a cake rich in service to the com-



munities of St. Ann Chapel (in the early days), and then of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish—preaching, sacramental preparation, teaching, baptizing, marriage preparation, RCIA, the ReNew program, spiritual counsel and practical guidance for seekers, questioners, those in pain and despair, those intellectually curious, those coming back, those leaving. Carl and Helen offered hospitality and family life to seminarians, visiting priests, associate vicars and pastors, student priests, religious women, non-Catholic clergy men and women—all of whom can testify to the wonder of commitment to marriage, family and church community embodied in Helen and Carl. [Many thanks to Community Life's Bev Wade, Barbara Kent, Jeanne Ramos *et al* for making it happen!]

From the church steps:

Incident reports: If an accident occurs at any of the 14 Masses said at STA each week, or at any non-Mass event held in the church or the Thomas House—such as a fall, a fainting, an attack of some kind that requires calling 911—the sacristan or another designated person on the scene should send an email to the parish office describing the “incident” as fully as possible. Email to: business@paloaltocatholic.org, or call the parish office, 650-494-2496, ext. 20 (for Chuck Tully, business manager), and describe the incident to the best of your ability.

Church Interior Committee report: Judy Foley, chair of the STA Interior Committee, reports that the parish Building and Maintenance Committee and the Finance Committee have approved a proposal from architect D.

Michael Kastrop of The Kastrop Group to move forward with Phase One of the church interior project—i.e., architect, designer, carpet, electrical and altar platform construction. Mr. Kastrop will seek the necessary verifications from the City with as-built designs, so that plans can be put out to construction contractors for bids. With this approval, the two years of careful planning by the Interior Committee will begin to be realized. Because of budget restraints and the wedding schedule, however, it is likely that noticeable construction work will not begin for several months.

Relic of St. Mary Magdalene at STA February 22: For two weeks in February a relic of St. Mary Magdalene (a major piece of her tibia enclosed in a glass tube) will visit churches in

Northern California. Father Thomas Michelet, a French Dominican priest, will escort the relic from Oakland to Southern California, coming to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Palo Alto on Tuesday, February 22nd for Veneration beginning at 12:00 noon with the regular weekday Mass at 12:15 pm and a Special Mass at 6:00 pm. Hours of Veneration will end at 8 pm. The purpose of the tour, which continues through March 15th, is to share the holiness of the relic and to tell the story of the saint who is recorded as the first witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. She is often referred to as Apostle to the Apostles. Tradition has it that Mary's final years were spent in solitude in southern France; her physical remains were hidden at the time of the Saracen invasions, rediscovered in 1279 and venerated ever since.