

# Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 2

March 20, 2011

## *News from the STA Mass communities:*

**7:15 Daily Mass:** During Lent, participation at this Mass swells.

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

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** Two babies were baptized on March 6. See article on page 2.

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

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** Enjoy the Gregorian chant at this Mass, led by the St. Ann Choir under the direction of Stanford professor William Mahrt.

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

## Thomas House almost done:

Renovation of the Thomas House interior is on schedule to be completed on March 30.

We anticipate moving after-Mass hospitality gatherings from the Homer House to the Thomas House in mid-April.

A separate permit for the construction of the outside handicapped ramp was submitted to the City of Palo Alto in December. That permit is still in the approval process, being reviewed by two different City boards (Historical and Architectural), with no indication

when it will be granted. While this is disappointing and inconvenient—as the construction crew will have to come back and build the ramp once the permit is issued—it is a temporary hiccup and does not do more than postpone our gala ribbon-cutting celebration celebrating the opening of the Jane Bahr Ramp.

In the meantime, we can get used to the refurbished interior, new kitchen, handicapped accessible bathroom, and designer colors and finishes throughout the



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

main floor.

Look for signs and announcements in the church once we are able to provide opportunities to visit the house again.

## *STA Site Committee plans:*

**Monthly Meeting:**  
4th Wednesday of the month.

**Next regular Site meeting:**  
Wednesday, March 23,  
7:30 p.m., at the Homer House,  
423 Homer Street., Palo Alto

**Agenda:**

- Re-opening Thomas House
- Events upcoming

**Monthly newsletter:**  
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

## Next STA Site Committee meeting March 23:

STA Site Committee will meet in the Homer House at 423 Homer Street, just down Homer from the church, this Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Topics of discussion will be acquiring furniture for the Thomas House (classic refectory-style dining table

and chairs and bookcases), stocking the kitchen, and planning the inaugural ribbon-cutting event (perhaps coupled with a waffle breakfast). Help with these next important steps as we take possession of the basement and main floor of the house.

Several parish groups

are signing up to have regular monthly and bi-monthly meetings in the Thomas House. Larger one-time events are in the works, too.

It is hoped that each Sunday Mass community will take advantage of the Thomas House to host hospitality gatherings after Mass.

**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 during Lent:

**Tuesday Spirituality Assemblies:** Don't miss these Tuesday evening educational talks: 7:00 pm at St. Albert's Hospitality Center.

**March 22: "Understanding Islam: Is the God of Mohammad the Father of Jesus?"** Speaker Father Jose Rubio is well known in the Diocese for his work toward interfaith harmony. He has spent many years in dialogue with Islamic communities promoting greater understanding between our faiths. Bring your questions. Father Rubio is extremely knowledgeable.

**March 29: Is your Dinner Choice a Moral Dilemma?** The parish Green Team discusses how what we eat can affect our health, our economy and the earth's fruitfulness. A compelling evening about the partnership that produces our food: the Lord, the land, the labor.

**The Seton Spring Social & Pre-K Fundraiser is Wednesday, March 30,** featuring renowned author Mark Salzman. Please join us from 6 - 8:30 p.m. in the school auditorium to hear Seton alumni speak and learn about the capital campaign to build an early learning center to provide a Pre-K and full-day Kindergarten.

The evening will conclude with Mark Salzman's heart-warming and entertaining presentation, focusing on his latest book, *True Notebooks*, the story of Salzman's discovery of what lies behind the gates of Central Juvenile Hall. Invitations to the event are in the back of the churches and attached to the ebulletin.

Contact the Seton School Development Office to R.S.V.P. 650-326-1258 or email development@stelizabethseton.com

## From the church steps:

Little boy cousins were baptized at the 8:45 a.m. Sunday Mass on March 6. Fisilau Palei Tu'ipulotu (born 1/7/11) and Tokemoana Tamaseaula Mahafutau (born 11/15/09) are nephews of the Eke Family Choir co-leader, Lani Eke.



Fr. Marini greets the families of the babies.

The Ekes are the music ministers at least twice a month at the 8:45 Mass and are definitely part of that Mass community. When these nephews of Lani Eke were ready for baptism, she asked if



Tokemoana is doubtful before the baptism.

the sacrament could be administered during an 8:45 Mass.



The parents and godparents are reassured by Fr. Marini.

And so it is that, under the guidance of Fr. Michael Marini, Fisilau and Tokemoana now share their baptismal day. Neither boy made a sound as the water was poured over his head, and much relief and joy spread from the family to the whole congregation as the baptisms concluded.