

Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 3

April 24, 2011

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Volunteer sacristans are needed to help with the tasks of opening and shutting the church and getting the altar ready for Mass. Ask Arlen Hagen, the cantor.

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

8:45 Sunday Mass: Two music groups alternately lead the congregation in song—the Eke Family Choir, and the choir led by Larry Schemel.

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.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
4th Wednesday of the month.

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, April 27,
7:30 p.m., at the Homer House,
423 Homer Street., Palo Alto

Agenda:

- **Event management at Thomas House**
- **Events upcoming**

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Thomas House opening in May:

With all construction projects, things happen that delay completion of the work. So it has happened with the Thomas House renovation project.

We had expected that everything would be done by March 30, and even by mid-March, that still seemed to be the case. But then one delayed inspection was followed by the delivery of kitchen flooring that turned out to be defective and had to be returned. We waited for the correct flooring.

The permit for construction of the ramp was applied for at the City and finally approved early in April. Because the gas meter was located where

the ramp was to be built, a permit to move the meter had to be approved. The meter was moved last week. If you take a look at the back of the



Ramp will replace the bannister at this corner of the house.

house, you will see the beginnings of prep for the ramp leading up to the main floor.

But the ramp does not have to be finished before we can occupy the premises. We are



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

hopeful that by May 1, or certainly by May 8, we will be able to walk through the house, and imagine it furnished and bustling with activities and events. Watch for signs announcing the opportunity to see what six months' work looks like.

STA useful information:

Parking: There are 15 off-street parking spaces in a gravel lot behind the Homer House. Access is provided by a driveway from Homer Street directly behind the church. The concrete driveway has 4 handicapped parking spaces on the left and the gravel parking lot is down a slight slope past the carport on the right.

Also, on Sunday, we may park in the Waverley Surgery Center parking lot just a few yards up Waverley St. to-

wards downtown, on the same side of the street as the church. Turn into the lot and go down the slope to the lower level parking area.

Bicycle parking: The weather is improving—it's time to bike to church! There is a bike parking rack behind the church alongside the driveway off Homer Street.

Restroom: The handicapped accessible bathroom is located on the left side of the

church vestibule. There is a long pew bench outside the bathroom—a good resting spot if your child needs a timeout during Mass.

Belfry: On the right side of the vestibule is the "bride's room," with a mirror and table. From that room, stairs lead up to the choir loft and to the church bell, which is rung by pulling on the thick rope attached to the clapper. It is a real bell in the tower, not an electronic system; pulling the rope is exercise!

**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:

2011 Parish Directory: Pictures from Holy Week services will be the last additions to the parish directory. We will have the directories in our hands by June 30.

Parish website: Liturgy Coordinator Nora Lundin is re-vamping the parish website, www.paloaltocatholic.org, to make it more accessible and user-friendly. She anticipates having it ready for viewing and comments by the Pastoral Stewardship Council by July 1. Key components include an interactive calendar and the ability of ministry chairpersons to upload reports, meeting notes, events and pictures to the site.

Human Concerns Resettlement Program with Catholic Charities: Seventy parishioners have volunteered to participate in the refugee resettlement program presented to our parish by Catholic Charities. A

meeting will be held after Easter at which a description of the tasks and duties involved will be explained. Because Homeland Security is blocking all refugees at the moment, it is expected we will get our one (or perhaps two) refugees (either a single person or a family) sometime in the summer. Catholic Charities finds housing for the refugees, encourages them to use public transportation, and gives them a bicycle. Walt Lundin reported that the 70 volunteers came from all our church sites and Mass times.

PSC action on AT&T's SAG cell tower proposal: The Pastoral Stewardship Council voted on April 13 to withdraw its support for the AT&T proposed cell tower at St. Albert the Great. Local news coverage spelled out the details, as did a report in the April 22 parish eBulletin. A

From the church steps:

Friday gardening at STA:

A nascent garden committee is kicking off its activities by committing to spend one hour after the first Friday morning Mass each month working in the gardens around the church. Thank you to Vicki Sullivan, Helen Baumann, and Patti Robison, who will work with the parish maintenance staff to keep the weeds down, plant, and prune as needed. Helpers are welcome to join them at any time—call Helen, (650) 327-9236, or Vicki, (650) 327-5339.

Safety guidelines for STA:

A volunteer is needed to help us adapt guidelines for greeters/ushers. We will spell out procedures designed to keep our STA congregations safe during worship and meetings in the church building. The guidelines we will use as the template have been developed for

Our Lady of the Rosary Church and are in electronic form. Contact Kay Williams (see above.)

Interior Committee update:

The STA Interior Renovation Committee is happy to report that a new gate at the foot of the belfry/choir loft stairs has been lovingly crafted and installed by Jan Dedek. Thank you, Jan, for your



Choir loft gate by Jan Dedek.

skill and service to STA!
The committee is working with archi-

tect Mike Kastrop on the design of the altar platforms. He has been hired to shepherd the plans through the appropriate departments at the City of Palo Alto.

Thomas House usage guidelines:

The STA Site Committee has developed the first round of usage guidelines, which will be important to communicate to potential tenants of the second floor apartments. The main floor will be shared space, so clear guidelines for both parish users and tenants are essential.

New piano for STA:

The church needs a new small grand piano of good quality. If you could help fund a purchase, please contact Nora Lundin at the parish office, (650) 494-2496.