

Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 4

May 22, 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. Contact Arlen Hagen, (650) 493-8139.

7:30 Sunday Mass: Bea and Bill Peterson are regular sacristans. Are you interested in helping? Ask Bea, (650) 843-0866.

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: ASCENSION, Sunday, June 5, William Byrd, the Mass propers for Ascension, conducted by Kerry McCarthy; PENTECOST, Sunday, June 12, Claudio Monteverdi, Messa da capella

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, May 25,
7:30 p.m., at the Thomas House,
745 Waverley St., Palo Alto

Agenda:

- Thomas House furnishings
- Opening celebration
- Garden committee

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Thomas House poised for use:

The St. Thomas Aquinas Pastoral Stewardship Council (PSC) inaugurates the Thomas House with its annual PSC/Staff retreat on Saturday, May 21.

In preparation for this meeting, parish business manager Chuck Tully has been pushing the contractor and architect for completion of various finishing touches throughout the house. The main work of renovation is done: electrical systems are humming along, the heating system works

like a charm, the handicapped bathroom and bride's room are ready, the floors are all refinished, walls painted, wood trim stained, lighting fixtures in place.

The Thomas House, however, is bare. The thirty PSC and parish staff members attending the retreat on May 21 will be sitting on hard metal chairs around 6' folding plastic-topped tables, using compostable utensils, cups and plates for refreshments. (See following article for needs.)



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

The STA Site Committee looks forward to welcoming STA parishioners at a gala opening celebration in the Thomas House well before the next *Steeple Talk* is written.

Furnishings needed for Thomas House:

The rooms of the Thomas House on the main floor are the target for furniture and floor coverings. The Site Committee is assessing the spaces and is now actively seeking the following:

- Area rugs of all sizes, especially 8' x 11' up to 15' x 18'.
- Dining room table or refectory table and

chairs.

- Other chairs and credenza.
- Cooking pots of all sizes and kitchen utensils.
- Desks, bookcases and filing cabinet.
- Vacuum sweeper.

Site Committee member Ted Baer has a truck and can pick up donations. The Site Committee is

being selective about donated furnishings, looking for quality used items that will blend with each other and enhance the period feel of the house. If you are downsizing and wish your treasured pieces to have an ongoing useful life, contact Ted Baer, tabaer@sbcglobal.net, 321-6179.

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	Judy Foley	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:

Dermody Center decision: The Dermody Center Committee was given 30 days to investigate the options for the use of the Dermody Center (formerly the nuns' convent) on the Our Lady of the Rosary campus. The committee met twice a week for a month and presented the PSC with a full report in April. The committee considered several scenarios, weighed the advantages and disadvantages of these scenarios, and concluded with a list of potential alternatives for use of the building. The committee recommended to the PSC that the parish decline the offer put forward by the International School of the Peninsula (to lease it to ISP for a middle school, upgrades for which ISP would pay). The PSC voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Dermody Committee.

Points raised in the discussion before the vote included:

- Correct problems of humidity, mold, and mildew in the building.
- Correct problem of attracting rats which die when trapped/poisoned and contaminate the atmosphere.
- The Building and Equipment Maintenance Committee will investigate the costs to fix and clean up the center; Finance Committee will then set a time line for paying for the necessary maintenance.
- Several phases of improvement can be anticipated.

Business Manager Chuck Tully is confident that ISP will not move when this decision is communicated to them. They are happy here. And by contract, either party has to give two year's notice of termination.

[STA parish has 17 buildings to maintain and manage at its three church sites—hardly typical for a suburban parish!]

From the church steps:

Friday gardening at STA:

The STA 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.

Thomas House ramp:

The handicapped ramp into the main floor of the Thomas House is under construction right now. Take a stroll down the path through the Memorial Garden on the north side of the church building and see the scope of the construction of the ramp.

STA book project:

A book featuring the stained glass windows of St. Thomas Aquinas church has been a dream of the STA Site Committee for many months. With the help of parishioner Denise Alongi, a graphic designer, and photographer Bob March, this dream is starting to materialize.

The church's history was written up by Arlen Hagen for the building's centennial in 2001, and will be incorporated into this new book project. The finished book will become the focal point

for fundraising for continued improvement of the STA site buildings.



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.