

Steeple Talk

Volume 5, No. 6

July 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. 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: Celebrants during July have included Msgrs. Gene Boyle and John Sandersfeld, Fr. Jerry Brown, S.S., and Fr. Randy Valenton. Look for Fr. Mike Marini on July 31.

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

12:00 Sunday Mass: Mass for the Feast of St. Ann, the patroness of the St. Ann Choir, will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, July 26, 8:00 p.m. The choir will sing the *Missa Sesquialtera* by Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594) together with the Gregorian chants for the day.

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

Storage closet built by Jan Dedek:

If you have occasion to use the restroom to the left of the church vestibule, you might notice something different about the door. Take a look. Parishioner Jan Dedek has en-

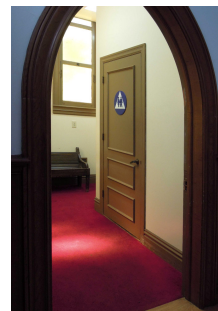


Restroom door before Jan started work on the molding

hanced the restroom door with molding that echoes the molding on the swinging doors leading into the church sanctuary. In addition, around the corner from the restroom Jan has constructed a secure stor-

age closet with a full-sized door and shelving inside.

Restroom door after Jan's work — notice the molding.



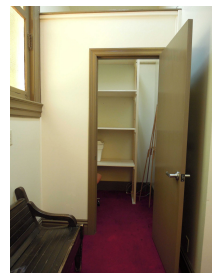
The STA Interior Committee, of which Jan is a member, solicited suggestions from the Site Committee and others, and this storage closet is a tangible result of the ideas and needs long desired by those who use the church.

Many thanks, Jan!



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

The closet with open door and shelves within



STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
4th Wednesday of the month.

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.,
in Thomas House living room.

Agenda:

- **Thomas House furnishings**
- **Usage coordination guidelines**
- **Event planning**

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 4th Wednesday

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

Thomas House not quite ready yet:

In the wake of the discovery in May that the Thomas House floor finish is not tough enough to withstand the heavy traffic and food service it will receive, Business Manager Chuck Tully has been working on the issue of identifying an acceptable finish with the project contractor.

This floor issue will soon be resolved and the floors refinished; then the handicapped-access door from the ramp

needs to be installed and the exhaust hood over the store lowered to its regulation height. Chuck is quite hopeful that by the end of August, these last details will be completed.

In the meantime, two of the three upstairs apartments are rented. The Gregorian choir is practicing before Mass each Sunday morning in the Thomas House basement, and

some limited meetings are being held in the living and dining rooms. No food is to be served at any of these parish gatherings, however, until the floor is safely sealed and protected.

Bookshelves, desks, and filing cabinets are still needed. Please contact Ted Baer, tabaer@sbcglobal.net, 321-6179 for consultation and pickup of items.

**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:

Summer Mass coverage by new and visiting priests:

Fr. Peter Seimas has joined the parish staff as parochial vicar. Fr. Franklin Epie from Cameroon is here for the summer. Parochial Vicar Fr. Randy Valenton will spend August in Peru attending a Spanish immersion course. In the fall, seminarian Michael Gray will join the parish staff as an intern for 9 months.

SAG's 50th Anniversary events continue:

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of St. Albert the Great Church continues in August with a Women's Leadership Tea on August 13, celebrating with women who have been leaders at St. Albert's, including some of the nuns, and an art exhibit on October 1 and 2, with display of art works by parish artists and craftspeople.

Green Committee plans:

To encourage ecologically sound behavior in the parish, the Green Committee proposed the following activities to the PSC:

- 1) August will be Bike to Church month. Encouragement will be offered in the form of a sweepstakes prize drawing at the parish picnic from among those who fill out a card each time they bike to church.
- 2) At the parish picnic on September 18, the Green Committee will have an information table to encourage "living green," and perhaps sponsor some games that echo the green living theme.
- 3) For the St. Albert Anniversary Art and Craft show on October 1 and 2, The Green Committee will sponsor/encourage the submission of art/craft work made from recyclable material

From the church steps:

Friday gardening at STA:

The STA Garden Committee is continuing with its planned gardening sessions—working in the gardens around the church building for one hour after the first Friday morning Mass each month. Thank you to Vicki Sullivan, Helen Baumann, Patti Robison, and Mary Gallagher. They are working 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.

Old pictures of church interior:

Do you have pictures of the interior of STA from pre-Vatican II days (the 40s, 50s, or early 60s)? We are looking at the side altars in particular for images of how the Mary and Joseph statues were framed. Contact Judy Foley at judy-berthcholey@yahoo.com, 650-322-8650.

Sunday 12:00 p.m. Mass news:

The celebrants for the Gregorian Mass include several Dominicans from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley. One of these during the last year has been Fr. Richard Schenk, O.P. He has recently been appointed President of the Catholic University of Eichstaett in Bavaria. This is the only Catholic university in the German-speaking area, supported by the bishops of Bavaria.

Weddings at STA:

The parish wedding schedule generally runs from May through October, with a couple odd ones here and there. The parish averages about 20 weddings a year. This year 19 are scheduled, and already four are scheduled for next year. Of the 19 weddings this year, 16 weddings are here at STA; two Quinceañeras are also

scheduled in 2011 at STA. Any others are at OLR or SAG.

One recent June bride was concerned enough about having everything done perfectly that her family booked two wedding slots back-to-back to insure that no interference or delays would impact her wedding.

The STA Interior Committee is hoping the planned renovations to the church interior can take place in January 2012 when no weddings are scheduled!

Recent funerals at STA:

Fr. Hester presided at Mary A. Baracchi's funeral at STA on 7/8/11; George Hoberg's funeral was on 7/13/11 with Fr. Peter Seimas presiding; and Robert J. O'Connor's funeral on 7/16/11 with his cousin, Fr. Bob Fabing, saying the Memorial Mass.