

Steeple Talk

Volume 6, No. 5

July 8, 2012

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Regular attendee Helen Bunje celebrated her birthday on July 5.

7:30 Sunday Mass: The Fourth of July was marked at the July 1 Mass with flag and patriotic music.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Visitors and newcomers are publicly recognized and welcomed at the outset of each Sunday Mass.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Monique Castell is coordinating the hospitality gathering after this Mass each week. Offer her your help.

12:00 Sunday Mass: Thursday evening, July 26, 8:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, the St. Ann's Choir will celebrate a Sung Mass celebrating the choir's patronal feast: *Orlando di Lasso, Missa Il Me Suffit*.

12:15 Daily Mass: Sat. July 14 Mass moved to 11:00 am, followed by procession to Lytton Plaza for the Rosary Rally.

Italian Dinner August 4:

Come to the second (almost-annual) Italian dinner on August 4 in the Thomas House, 5:00 —8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited, and you won't want to miss the gourmet menu of antipasti, spaghetti with homemade Italian sausage Bolognese sauce or zesty vegetarian marinara, and a polenta (gluten-free) option, accompanied by freshly tossed salad, bread and dessert of spumoni and biscotti.

Special feature: handicapped tables:

The main venue for the dinner is the Basement Hall in the Thomas House, but the first floor is handicapped accessible, and a special feature of this event will be individualized service to handicapped

persons and their parties in various rooms on the first floor. Since space is limited in the first floor rooms, it will be necessary for handicapped tables to be reserved in advance.

Tickets and time:

Tickets for the dinner are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets go on sale on July 21 and will be available after Masses through July 29 and at the parish office. A wine and beer cash bar is a tradition at such parish events, and this one is no exception. The bar will be open from 5:00—8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for this festive Italian evening and look for ticket sellers after Masses



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

on July 21/22 and July 28/29.

Info and reservations:

Contact Helen Baumann for ticket information, handicapped table reservations, and sales: (650) 327-9236, hbbbaumann@aol.com, or for tickets only, Sandra Pedersen at the Pastoral Center, 650-494-2496.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
2nd Thursday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Thursday, July 12, 2012
7:30 p.m., Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):
• Italian Dinner Aug. 4
• Kitchen improvements

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before 2nd Thursday

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

Thomas House update:

Kitchen cabinetry:

Discussions continue with the parish Facilities and Finance Committees about the need to add cabinets to the Thomas House kitchen. The bid for construction of cabinets based on architectural plans by Mario Veloro was helpful to the committees as the members deliberated on the financial needs of all parish facilities. The STA Site Committee is tasked with making final recommendations for the project to the two committees later in July.

The Site Committee will be taking a hard look at the kitchen and at Mario's options and price the new equipment that is desired, in order to put together a final presentation for July. Mario has generously provided several different configurations for the cabinets. Jan Dedek had some intriguing suggestions for consideration. The kitchen is definitely a work in progress!

STA Library:

Ted Baer and his team of librarians are hard at work, cataloguing the hundreds of books donated to the Thomas House library. He promises that most of the work will be done in time for attendees at the August 4 Italian dinner in the Thomas House to be able to peruse the books and follow their interests through a comprehensible catalogue system.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer	Bob Barron	Helen Baumann
Philip Boudart	Lorraine Dabney	Judy Foley
Anna Jaklitsch	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 2nd Thursday of the month in the Library of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

Pastoral Stewardship Council meets July 11:

Interested parishioners are invited to attend the monthly Pastoral Stewardship Council meeting on Wed., July 11, 7:00-9:00 pm. The meeting location is now the St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center for the next year's worth of meetings (the location rotates annually).

The principal agenda topic is the continued discussion of our parish response to the proposal from the International School of the Peninsula to construct a middle-school building and other improvements at the OLR site. Also on the agenda are the regular Pastor's report along with brief update reports from Liturgy and Hispanic Ministries, as well as our parish Business Manager Chuck Tully.

Save your old shoes:

In September, the Human Con-

cerns Committee will collect used and new adult and children's shoes for Soles4Souls which distributes shoes world-wide to people in need of crisis relief as well as to support micro-business efforts in impoverished areas.

New parish religious education coordinator:

Susan Lee Olsen has been hired as Catechetical Coordinator of Children's Ministries. Susan replaces Sue Clingsmith, who resigned in June.

Susan worked at Holy Family parish from 2000-2012. She has extensive experience in Liturgy, Faith Formation, and Social Justice, and she has worked with children in various capacities as a professional and as a volunteer. Susan has a PhD from Graduate Theological Union in Theology with an emphasis in Liturgy & Art.

From the church steps:

STA Garden Club:

The first meeting of the STA Garden Club on June 16 included a fun lunch and a tour of the garden. Lots of ideas were shared, and the attendees saw that there is plenty of work to do.

It was agreed that specific tools are needed and have to be available. A storage area can be set up in the Homer House garage, so everyone can get access whenever they are able to put some time into the garden. Anyone with a little time should feel free to deadhead the roses, or pull the weeds, etc., whenever it fits his or her schedule.

But the group also realized they want to develop a plan for working together and for improving the overall plantings.

When they broke up they were planning to carry on meeting and working for a couple of hours on First Friday mornings. People thought this time might be

better for more people, at least as long as it stays warm...the weekends get so busy.

Organizer Helen Baumann is now thinking that once a month is not going to make much of a dent in the projects that need attention. She is hoping that the group can agree to work in the garden every Friday morning for a couple of hours. Not everyone will be able to come every time, but it would give them a chance to make some noticeable progress and define tasks and get a plan of action worked out. Fridays are good because that is the day that Godofredo Alfaro, chief parish custodian and handyperson, is at STA, and the group can coordinate with him about what the members can do to help him, and vice versa.

Contact Helen Baumann for information or to volunteer for the Garden Club: (650) 327-9236, hbbaumann@aol.com.

Reminder on available 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. towards 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 perfect—it's time to bike to church!. There is a bike parking rack behind the church alongside the driveway off Homer Street.