

Steeple Talk

Volume 7, No. 3

May 5, 2013

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Arlen Hagen, Tom Williams, and Joan L'Heureux share sacristan duties through the week at this Mass.

7:30 Sunday Mass: This early Mass is popular with folks who like to get an early start on their Sunday activities.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Thanks to Helen Baumann for the loan of her cymbidium orchids for the Easter season altar.

10:30 Sunday Mass: Bass singers are needed for the community choir. See choir director Paul Prochaska after Mass.

12:00 Sunday Mass: Pentecost With the St. Ann Choir, Sunday May 19, 12:00 noon, "Missa Osculetur Me" for double choir by Orlando de Lassus, with Renaissance motets and Gregorian chants for the day

12:15 Daily Mass: Residents of Channing House are frequently in attendance at this Mass.

Garage Sale for chair lift to basement:

Garage sale June 8

The STA Site Committee has registered for the Palo Alto City-wide Garage Sale on Saturday, June 8. We are selling furniture (those sturdy metal folding chairs for \$1 each—a deal!) and other stuff that's been stored in the old garage by the parking lot behind the church.

Donate your used goods

What would you like to get rid of from your homesteads? This is your chance to start the cleanout that hangs over you like a dark cloud! The Site Committee encourages everyone to bring their donations to the garage on Saturday, June 1: it's time to clean out your attics and garages and do good in the process.

Handicapped access to basement

The money raised by the sale of

these items will go towards the cost of putting in a handi-capped chair lift down to the Thomas House basement hall. Parishioner Dick Freeman did the research and figured out that the best way to get handi-capped access to the basement was the installation of a chair lift. We have had a bid for \$13,000.00 to do this, but it is not in the parish budget for this year. Donations are needed to make the chair lift happen! And this garage sale on June 8 will be the start.

Work day June 1 to prep:

Please come help us organize the garage itself on Saturday, June 1, 10:00 am.

Set-up on June 7

Come Friday before the sale at 10:00 a.m. to price items and get ready for the 8:00 a.m.



St. Thomas Aquinas Church start on Saturday morning.

The goal

We would like to get the chair lift installed before the Italian dinner on June 22. So we need lots of help! A little time from lots of people will make the difference. Contact Helen Baumann, 650-327-9236, hbbbaumann@aol.com.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:

2nd Thursday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:

Thursday, May 9, 2013
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- Italian dinner June 22
- Movie nights
- Kitchen remodeling
- Library volunteers

Monthly newsletter:

Sunday before 2nd Thursday

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

Thomas House happenings:

Thomas House Theatre:

The Thomas House basement hall has been outfitted with all the technology needed to screen movies, videos, PowerPoint presentations, and slides. Jim Davis is donating a big old popcorn machine to the theater. **Are you a movie buff who would like to "run" a theater?** What would you like to see on the big screen? Let the Site Committee know your ideas—by email to hbbbaumann@aol.com or kaywill@pacbell.net.

Italian Dinner June 22:

You do not want to miss the St. Thomas Aquinas 3rd Annual Italian Dinner this year. Save Saturday, June 22, 5—7:30 pm, for the meal of a lifetime. Church spaghetti dinners have a bad reputation in culinary circles, but the STA Italian Dinner turns those expectations upside down. Chef Ted Baer makes an Italian pasta sauce that is over-the-top delicious—truly a gourmet's delight. Last year no one left

disappointed, and those who bought a ticket and didn't show missed out.

Tickets will go on sale on June 2 for \$15 per person. If we have the chair lift installed in time, we will all eat together in the basement hall. If not, we'll have special seating on the main floor for those who choose to avoid the stairs.

Proceeds will help pay for the chair lift.

**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:

Knights of Columbus anniversary April 29:

Mario Veloro noted that the Knights of Columbus Council No. 2677 attained its respectable age of 85 years exactly on Monday, April 29. This chapter was chartered in the halls of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, which was just STA church and rectory as we know them today. Mario is happy to report that the Council No. 2677 is finally "back home" on the STA site, marked by their crucifix hanging on the wall of the Thomas House basement. (Due to the Thomas House renovations, the Knights had moved temporarily to OLR.)

Merton Center speaker May 11 in Thomas House hall:

Dr. John Van Hagen will talk on his book, "Rescuing Religion: The Story Behind the Stories", Saturday, May 11, 2-4 p.m., in the Tho-

mas House basement hall. The lecture and discussion will be followed by a wine and cheese reception.

He suggests that the greatest scientific challenge to religion is the science that *reconstructs* the histories of the Jewish and Christian religions and *deconstructs* the traditional understanding of those histories. The social sciences, building on this new information, offer new insights into just what faith is all about.

John Van Hagen, former Catholic priest, Ph.D. psychologist with 30 years experience in clinical, training, and teaching positions, and member of The Jesus Seminar, has studied the effect of biblical scholarship on the beliefs of religious individuals and led workshops on the impact and influence of scientific information on one's journey of faith.

From the church steps:

Altar flower power is still needed: Church interior progress:

The 8:45 Mass liturgy team manages the STA altar decorations throughout the year. They are issuing *an urgent call* for one or two volunteers to take on the arrangement of altar flowers one Sunday a month right now—since two volunteers have recently "retired". It would be great to have a volunteer from one of the other Mass communities. The commitment would be for buying (reimbursable, of course) and arranging the altar flowers one Sunday per month— with Advent and Lent off. The work is actually done on Saturday morning. It is great if someone and a friend would like to do it together. It doesn't have to be a single person. If interested, please call Sally Benson at (408)972-5843 or Margie Harrington at (650)324-1793. Don't be shy— guidance is available, if you are a novice with flowers. Just call and volunteer!

Sound: The new sound system in the church is complete except for a new ambo microphone which will eliminate the "popping" sound. The speakers in the bridal and vestibule areas are operational. The music directors, with their individual needs, are pleased with the setup. Remember that the Loop System, for those wearing hearing aids, is operational.

Bell is silenced: The church bell was inspected three weeks ago, and the bolts holding the bell in place were found to be loose. The inspector recommended immediate repair and no bell ringing until the repair is done. Consequently, the bell pulling rope has been looped out of reach and a warning sign hung in the bride's room. The Interior Committee is assessing the extent of the repair work needed. There will be a bell again, but not for a while.

Homeless update:

Our homeless porch campers, Matt and Dean, have not completely abandoned us. Unfortunately, they have caused disturbances a couple of times in the past weeks which brought the police to their side, in spite of the posted notices and personal warnings. They are welcome to attend Mass or other services at the church, but they are not allowed to be sleeping on the property or to leave their gear in the carport. It does not help a person suffering from a substance addiction to give him a safe place to consume his drug of choice. If you want to help, give clean socks, and not money.

We continue to work with Palo Alto police officer Chris Correia and with Heiri Schuppiser, the Momentum for Mental Health social worker, to do the right thing by the men, and woman, who have found refuge on the church property.