

# Steeple Talk

Volume 12, No. 11

February 3, 2019

## News from the STA Mass communities:

**7:15 Daily Mass:** A devoted group of worshippers attends this early Mass.

**7:30 Sunday Mass:** The early morning crowd fills the church for this Mass, which is usually completed by 8:20 a.m.

**8:45 Sunday Mass:** Paul Prochaska, music leader at 10:30 Mass, led music at 8:45 with his group on Jan. 27.

**10:30 Sunday Mass:** Paul Prochaska is the lead music minister and welcomes singers/musicians who would like to join him. Find him after Mass.

**12:00 Sunday Mass:** St. Ann Choir will sing First Vespers of the Solemnity of Mary on Dec. 31 at St. Ann Chapel at midnight.

**12:15 Daily Mass:** A welcome lunch time destination for Catholics who work in the neighborhood--and the church remains open until 5:00 p.m. each day.

## Knights of Columbus selling Feb. 9 crab dinner tickets now:

On sale now are 2019 Crab Dinner Dance tickets. Look for a Knight of Columbus (maybe wearing a red crab cap!) after Mass--he will have tickets for purchase at the same price as 2018: \$50 each.



This "Dinner by the Sea" offers a nautical theme, so come aboard and enjoy a sea-side evening of food, fun, and entertainment.

6:00 pm: Social Hour (hors d'oeuvres & Silent Auction, no-host bar)

7:00 pm: Dinner & Crab Feast

8:30 pm: Auction winners announced.

Our Knights of Columbus Council asks parishioners for donations of new or gently used items or services (car washing, wine tasting party, progressive dinner, babysitting, etc.) for the auction table. Proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus charities and St. Elizabeth Seton School. Please call Jerry Lucha (650) 424-9660 to discuss your auction item idea or drop off items at the Pastoral Center (3290 Middlefield Road, PA).

For dinner tickets, please contact Grand Knight Charles Guenzer (650) 387-4268 or Jerry Lucha (650) 425-9660 or any member of our Parish's Knights of Columbus.

## STA exterior siding needs paint:

Did you notice the peeling paint on the bottom board of the church exterior as you go down the ramp? You could help fix this!



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

The parish Building & Equipment Maintenance Committee needs a volunteer or two to manage the selection of a painting contractor to prep the entire church exterior and re-paint the building. Exploratory work has been done, contractors have been approached, but now a team of STA volunteers is needed to make the dream a reality.

Call Helen Baumann right now: (650) 327-9236.

## STA Site Committee plans:

### Monthly Meeting:

1st Wednesday (usually) of the month

### Next regular Site meeting:

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

### Agenda (tentative):

- ◆ Interior Committee report
- ◆ Church exterior: stairs, garden furniture, painting
- ◆ Thomas House maintenance

### Monthly newsletter:

Sunday before Wednesday meeting

Editor: Kay Williams, 650-270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net

## STA site activities:

### Newcomers:

On January 6, the following persons registered as new parishioners in St. Thomas Aquinas parish:

**8:45 a.m. Mass:** Apryll Braun

**10:30 a.m. Mass:** B. Wei  
Mary Jiang

### Friday Fish Fest on hiatus:

During February and March, we forego holding



the Fish Fest supper so that parishioners can attend the other parish meals in those months: the Crab Dinner Dance in February and the St. Patrick's day dinner in March. Back on April 12th!

### New front stairs on target:

The pending decision for planners is which color and style of granite will be found--and available in time--for the late April start date of the reconstruction of the front stairs. Stay tuned...

### Memorial Garden furniture:

A team of STA folks has been working on refurbishing the benches and table that usually sit in the Memorial Garden. Thanks to the hard work of Helen Baumann, Paul Prochaska, Vicki and Larry Sullivan, and Joan and Gordon Campbell, the sanding and oiling of these lovely teak pieces is nearing completion. Notice that one bench and the table should be back in the garden by today. Watch for the other benches to be back soon.

**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**      **Lorraine Dabney**  
**Jan Dedek**      **Judy Foley**      **Anna Jaklitsch**  
**Nora Lundin**      **Bill Mahrt**      **Bob March**  
**Vicki Sullivan**      **Kay Williams** and occasional others

**Mission Statement:** The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to build community across the site's six Mass communities and within the larger parish: 1) by facilitating communication among Mass communities, the Thomas House tenants and other users, and the larger parish; 2) by sponsoring and organizing site-specific community building activities; and 3) by exercising responsible stewardship of our historic downtown facilities.

Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 1st Wednesday 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, (650) 270-4188, kaywill@pacbell.net.

## Parish pathways:

### *Soles4Souls: gently-used shoe collection this month:*

The STA Human Concerns Committee is collecting used and/or new shoes during the month of February 2019.



You will find collection boxes placed for your convenience in the vestibules of our three churches.

Your shoes will be taken to DSW (Designer Shoe Warehouse) and shipped at their expense to Soles4Souls warehouses for distribution to men, women and children in need around the world.

In 2012, our parish contributed 597 pairs of shoes! We encourage you to gather your unneeded gently-used shoes and watch for the donation boxes in the church vestibules.

### *Peaceful Presence: Multifaith Prayers for Peace February 11:*

Let us come together for much needed time of healing, prayers, strength and gratitude.

Peaceful Presence is a monthly gathering hosted by diverse faith communities for multifaith prayers for peace and strength for the journey.

This month is STA's turn to host: Monday, Feb. 11, 7:00-7:30 p.m. Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto.

### *Mass counts throughout February:*

Our pastor Fr. Stasys would like each church community do some Mass counts during the month of February. This supplements the official diocesan counting that happened in October. So if you see ushers or others counting heads surreptitiously during Masses during the month, that's what it's

## From the church steps:

### *Wednesdays at St. Thomas Aquinas Church: Adoration & Benediction:*

To offer more opportunities for personal prayer, our parish has been keeping St. Thomas Aquinas Church open daily from 7:15 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

In addition to that, each Wednesday the parish is offering Adoration and Benediction from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., before closing the church for the night.

You are encouraged to stop by and pray and adore Our Lord.

### *Ring found:*

A ring was found on the sidewalk outside the church on Nov. 11. It is a signet ring, one which appears to be well-worn. We'd like to find its owner.

If you can help identify the ring/owner, please call Helen Baumann 650-520-3061(cell), as she is in possession of the ring.

### *Parish Blood Drive February 16:*

The parish has arranged with the Stanford Blood Center to come to our parish Saturday, February 16, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Hall (3233 Cowper Street, Palo Alto) to accept blood donations.

NOTE: You do not need a physician consent to donate. If the nurse at the time determines there is a medical condition requiring consent then this is the only case in which you would need to consult a physician.

To schedule an appointment in advance:  
Online: [www.sbcdonor.org](http://www.sbcdonor.org); use Sponsor Code 2581  
Phone: 650-723-7831 (for eligibility requirements)

Contact STA parishioner Chris Lundin ([clundin@stanford.edu](mailto:clundin@stanford.edu), 650-213-6640) with questions.

### *Thomas Merton & Martin Luther King: Prophets for Today:*

All are welcome to hear this presentation by Michael W. Higgins, Ph.D., on Saturday, February 23, at 3:00 pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, in Menlo Park.

Dr. Higgins is a leading biographer of Thomas Merton, a celebrated scholar (with advanced degrees from Canada's York University and the University of Toronto), an award-winning author and documentarian, and the Vatican affairs specialist for the *Globe and Mail* and CTV Network. Besides all the titles and awards, he is a gifted speaker, enthralling audiences with his story-telling gifts and spiritual insights.

Open to all at no cost; donations to the sponsoring Merton Center welcome.