

Steeple Talk

Volume 12, No. 12

March 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: A small team is trying to bring after-Mass hospitality (coffee & donuts) to this congregation.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Help deliver donated packaged foods to a local food closet after this Mass. Contact John Arnold, 650-325-1421.

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: Sing along with the St. Ann Choir in Gregorian chant, the foundation of all Church music.

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.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner March 16:

St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in the Palo Alto Catholic community since 1966. Originally, the event was a corned beef and cabbage dinner followed by dancing. Twenty-seven years ago the event was reconfigured into a family event at an affordable price.

Often there are 3 generations of a family at a table...and at a few tables may be found people who attended the very first celebration more than 50 years ago.

The event, this year on Saturday, March 16, the eve of St. Patrick's Day, begins at 5:45 pm with (free) snacks, refreshments and Irish music. At 6:30 a children's group from the Greene Academy of Irish Dancing performs. A freshly prepared Irish-American dinner (of corned



beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and Carol Pulliam's Irish soda bread) is served at 7:15 pm. For those--often children and vegetarians--not wishing the traditional dinner, pizza may be substituted. (The potatoes and carrots are vegetarian.)

After an ice cream dessert and a brief sing-along, the event concludes, usually about 8:30.

The price for all but the drinks is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. An activity



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

packet for younger children is free at the door.

We hope you can come to join us to celebrate St. Pat's with your family and fellow parishioners.

The dinner is held at Seton School Auditorium, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Tickets will be on sale after Mass on March 3rd and 10th. Look for the person wearing the shamrock hat!

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:
1st Wednesday (usually) of the month

Next regular Site meeting:
Wednesday, March 6, 2019,
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):
♦ Interior Committee report
♦ Church exterior: stairs, garden furniture, painting
♦ Events

Monthly newsletter:
Sunday before Wednesday meeting

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

STA site activities:

Newcomers:
On February 4, the following persons registered as new parishioners in St. Thomas Aquinas parish:

10:30 a.m. Mass:
Mary Jiang, Menlo Park
Angela Stoddard, E. Palo Alto

Reconstruction of front stairs to begin April 29:
Stay tuned next month for how we will cope while the stairs are being re-done.

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. Next Fish Fest dinner will be on April 12th!



Fifth Friday Sing-A-Long on March 29:

All are invited to join in the Friday night Sing-A-Long with guitarist Paul Prochaska at the Thomas House on March 29 from 7:00 till 8:30 p.m. Lyrics are projected so you can throw yourself into the music, rediscovering familiar melodies from the great American songbook. There are refreshments and fellowship to sweeten the evening--and singing improves breathing and brings good cheer!

**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:

Thanks to Feb. 16 blood donors:

Thanks to all who were able to donate in our first-ever Parish Blood Drive. 31 folks offered to donate much needed blood.

In a subsequent email from the Stanford Blood Center:

“Thank you for bringing Stanford Blood Center out to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish ... and for all of the effort you put into this drive! It was a pleasure to work with you. The generosity of everyone provided 24 units of blood, which will potentially help save up to 72 lives!

Our goal for this drive was 27 units. We collected 24 and came in at 89% of our goal. 31 people total registered and 8 people were deferred for various reasons. We had 9 first time donors. Please extend our thanks to everyone who participated! “

Thanks to Dick Placone for suggesting (and staffing) the drive

and thanks to Fr. Stasys for stopping by. Perhaps an annual event?

Saturday, March 23: Spiritual Care Service Volunteer Training at Stanford Hospital

Would you be interested in visiting Catholic patients at Stanford Hospital and offering them Communion as a Eucharistic Minister?

If you are a compassionate listener, empathic, well grounded in your faith, and open to serving a couple of hours a week, then, becoming a Spiritual Care Service Volunteer at Stanford might be the right opportunity for you.

Stanford Health Care is offering its next training class for new volunteers on Saturday, March 23rd, at Stanford Hospital.

To learn more about this special ministry and request an application, please contact:

Raksha Patel at 650-723-5101
or spiritualcare@stanfordhealthcare.org.

From the church steps:

Lenten practice: Centering Prayer and Lection Divina, begins March 9:

Give yourself the gift of sacred time and space this Lenten season. Come to the Thomas House Library for this weekly one-hour prayer session on Saturday mornings during Lent from 9 -- 10 am. Dates are March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13.

All are welcome. Books on contemplation, centering prayer and the spiritual journey will be available. No registration needed and the session is free.

If you can't make all the Saturdays, come when you can. Facilitator is Pat Clough, Centering Prayer practitioner. Contact her at parhclough@gmail.com if you have questions.

Ash Wednesday at STA March 6:



Ash Wednesday is March 6. Start your Lenten observance by attending one of the 3 Ash Wednesday liturgies here at STA:

- ◆ 7:15 a.m. (Ashes and Mass)
- ◆ 12:15 p.m. (Ashes distribution with Communion Service)
- ◆ 6:00 p.m. (Ashes and Mass)
- ◆ 8:00 p.m. (Ashes and Mass--Gregorian)

Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from eating meat. All who are 14 years of age and above are bound by this law, and there is no upper age limit.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are also days of fast. This law binds those who are 18 to 59 years of age.

Save April 6 for Lenten Morning of Reflection:

Sr. Marilyn Wilson, BVM, will lead a Lenten Morning of Reflection on Saturday, April 6, 9 am - 12 noon, at SAGH, 1095 Channing Ave., Palo Alto.

Sr. Marilyn is an educator, spiritual director, retreat leader and social justice activist particularly on behalf of abused and trafficked women. In an informal but structured session, she will guide us through meditation, prayer, and dialogue into the possibilities of Lenten observance and service.

All are welcome, and there is no fee to attend. Donations to the Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto are welcome but certainly not required.

Breakfast refreshments (coffee, bagels, fruit) will be available.