

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of August 13

All School

Carpool Reminder

We can't wait to welcome back the pack on Wednesday! To help ensure a smooth start to the school year, please take time to read the [carpool message](#) that was sent on Friday.

Register Today for the Sporting Clays Classic and the Ladies' Clinic

Join us for a fun day of friendly competition! The annual Sporting Clays Classic supports the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund, which provides cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate fully in the programs offered by St. Francis Episcopal School.

- The **Sporting Clays Classic will take place on Friday, October 20**, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Greater Houston Sports Club.
- Back by popular demand, our **Ladies' Clinic will be held on Wednesday, September 13**.
- [Click here](#) for event information, sponsorships, and registration!

We hope to see you there!

Child Safety in Hot Weather: A Note From the Nurse's Office

While summer temperatures persist, St. Francis's nurses encourage you to [review these resources](#), which provide excellent tips on keeping kids safe in hot weather.

Help Support the Arts at St. Francis

Please join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) for the first meeting of the 2023–24 school year at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, August 25. The meeting will be held in the Advancement Conference Room of the Administration Building (9000 Westheimer Rd.).

- All are welcome to attend and learn about the amazing support FoFA provides St. Francis's students, faculty, and staff.
- FoFA is an inclusive group of parents who support all aspects of the school's fine arts programming. They are thrilled to welcome St. Francis's artists and actors back to the stage, and sincerely hope you will join them to volunteer at student productions, art exhibits, and musical performances this year!

Primary School

From the Head of Primary School

I hope this message finds you well and refreshed after the summer break. As we gear up for another exciting school year, we all want to extend a warm welcome back to each and every one of you. And to our new families, we're so glad to have you at St. Francis!

Our team has been hard at work preparing an engaging environment for your children. We are thrilled to have your continued support and partnership in fostering a positive and enriching educational journey for our students. Throughout this year, we look forward to witnessing the growth, curiosity, and achievements of our young learners. Together, we can create memorable experiences and empower our students to reach remarkable heights.

We are excited to welcome these new faculty members to the Primary School community:

- **Vanessa Labarthe** is joining St. Francis as a **Pre-Primary Teacher**. She has more than 17 years of teaching experience and has taught in both Mexico City and at independent schools in Houston. Ms. Labarthe has worked as a kindergarten teacher, preschool English curriculum coordinator, and Spanish teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Universidad Anáhuac México del Sur in Mexico City.
- **Fainah Bondan** is joining St. Francis as a **Pre-Primary Teacher**. Ms. Bondan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fu Jen Catholic University in Taipei and a Master of Arts degree from Northern Arizona University. She taught ESL for many years in Indonesia and has spent the past seven years working as an early childhood teacher here in Houston.
- **Michelle Ordonez** is joining us as a **Pre-Primary Teaching Assistant** after working as a long-term substitute teaching assistant last year. She has previous experience working with young children and has served St. Francis for four years as a volleyball coach and member of the Explore and Extend staff.
- **Amber Robles** is joining us as a **Pre-Primary Teaching Assistant** after working as a long-term substitute teaching assistant in Primary I last year. Ms. Robles is a graduate of the University of Houston-Downtown, with a bachelor's degree in history and a

minor in general business. She currently serves as an assistant youth minister at her church and loves teaching Vacation Bible School.

- **Haley Clinch** is joining St. Francis as a **Pre-Primary Teaching Assistant**. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in child development from Texas Christian University. Ms. Clinch completed her student teaching locally and has worked in the after-school program at a neighboring independent school.

Thank you for choosing St. Francis. Let's work together to make this an amazing 2023–24!

Here's to a fantastic year of learning and growth ahead,

Ryan Kochel
Head of Primary School

Primary School Chapel Schedule for 2023–24

Primary School Chapel times for the 2023–24 school year are as follows:

- **Primary I:** Wednesdays at 9:00–9:30 a.m. Parents are invited to attend on their child's day beginning August 30.
- **Primary II:** Tuesdays at 9:00–9:30 a.m. Parents are invited to attend on their child's day beginning August 29.

Pre-Primary students will begin attending Chapel after the Christmas break, and their Chapel schedule will be announced closer to that time.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 14

- *Primary School Meet the Teacher: 4:00–6:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, August 16

- *First Day of School*
 - *Early Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.*
 - *Pre-Primary Kisses and Coffee*
 - *Welcome to the Den Meetings*
-

Thursday, August 17

- *Early Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.*
 - *Welcome to the Den Meetings*
-

Friday, August 18

- *Early Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.*
- *Welcome to the Den Meetings*

Lower School

From the Head of Lower School

I write with great excitement about the 2023–24 school year ahead! Our Lower School teachers are looking forward to helping students and parents acclimate to their new grade level and classroom. We aim to help Lower School students develop problem-solving skills, while supporting the social development of each child as they reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Thank you for trusting and supporting your child's new teacher as we embark on the adventure of starting a new school year.

I would like to take a moment to introduce our newest Lower School faculty members:

- **Kristin Bryant** is our new lower school counselor, and she brings years of experience working in an elementary school as an administrator and counselor.
- Our new fourth-grade math teacher, **Ilona Rosa** previously worked for many years as a third-grade classroom teacher at a local independent school.
- **Katharine (Pie) Piediscalzi** is our new kindergarten teacher, who has over a decade of experience as a kindergarten classroom teacher.

We are excited to partner with you in your child's Lower School education, and we look forward to seeing you this week!

Clifton Walker, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 14

- *Meet the Teacher*: 1:00– 5:00 p.m.; sign-up link is in the Parent Portal
 - *St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Uniform/Spirit Sale*: 12:30–4:30 p.m.
-

Tuesday, August 15

- *Meet the Teacher*: 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.; sign-up link is in the Parent Portal
 - *St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Uniform/Spirit Sale*: 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
-

Wednesday, August 16

- *First Day of School*
-

Thursday, August 17

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Monday, August 21

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Thursday, August 24

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.

Middle School

From the Head of Middle School

The first day of school has always been one of the most exciting days of the year for me. When I was a middle schooler, I looked forward to breaking out my new school shoes and backpack and to seeing all of the friends that I didn't get to see over the summer. I couldn't wait to meet my new teachers. Honestly, I found myself studying the personalities and interests of my teachers almost as much as the content they tried to teach me.

As I enter my second year at St. Francis, that back-to-school excitement is stronger than ever. We've added some really talented educators to our team, and our students are going to benefit directly from the gifts and experiences they bring to our school community.

- Fulbright scholar, English teacher, researcher, and poet **Addie Eliades** joins us as our new eighth-grade English teacher. Former Poet Laureate Rita Dove wrote of Ms. Eliades, "The poet is a witness who not only experiences the world intensely but chronicles what she has seen. Garcia Lorca's description of duende as 'a wind of the spirit . . . blowing insistently . . . in search of new landscapes and unknown accents' could have been written with [Ms. Eliades] in mind. Her intellectual curiosity is matched by genuine empathy; she is a powerful poet and a focused, compassionate human being The students will be lucky to have her!" I agree.
- **Catherine Sullivan** is joining St. Francis after teaching history at Holy Spirit Episcopal School here in Houston. Ms. Sullivan is an experienced history and English teacher. Her teaching career has taken her to Spring Branch ISD; Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Atlanta, GA; The Kinkaid School; and Presbyterian School. Our English and history teachers are excited about her experience integrating writing and reading instruction into history classes.
- **Courtney O'Brien** has been affiliated with St. Francis much longer than I have. She's a graduate of Baylor University and a St. Francis alum who worked in the Lower School during the first trimester of last school year. This year, she will be a full-time member of the Middle School English Department. Ms. O'Brien is excited to teach our fifth-grade English classes. Prior to returning to St. Francis last August, she taught at University Park Elementary School in Dallas, TX.
- **Leslie Gemarino** comes to St. Francis after teaching at independent schools in this area for nearly a decade. She recently taught middle school English at both Duchesne and Kinkaid. Ms. Gemarino also taught seventh-grade English in League City from 2010–12. She's a proud Texas Tech Red Raider. I served with Ms. Gemarino at Kinkaid and can assure you that she is one of the best writing teachers I have ever worked with in my career. Sixth-grade students are lucky to have such a skilled English teacher guiding them this year.
- **Sharon Willcutts** did everything in the Fine Arts Department at Episcopal High School. She served as department chair, visual arts lead teacher, advisor, and visual arts instructor. She will be teaching Middle School art this year. She runs her own private art studio, where she trains visual artists of all ages. In addition to teaching art in the Middle School, Mrs. Willcutts has already partnered with our Art à la Carte team

and is leading the visual arts alignment work between all our divisions and campuses. Her fifth-grade advisory and the students lucky enough to take one of her art classes are blessed to be in a class with Mrs. Willcutts.

- We have some part-time people joining our team, as well. **Coach Mitriell Vinzant** will be teaching one Middle School class, in addition to her new role as assistant librarian. Former English teacher and St. Francis sub **Samantha Sullivan** will be teaching our fifth-grade ELA Lab classes in the mornings. Our new Technical Theatre Director **Mary Schreier** and Dance Instructor **Kristina Revaz** will split their time between Upper and Middle School.

I didn't purchase a new backpack for this school year and I'm on the fence about getting new shoes for Day 1, but I am still thrilled for the start of school and for the chance to introduce you to our new and returning faculty. With this team in place, I am confident that your students are in good hands.

Let's get to work.

In love and service,

Byron R. Williams, EdD
Head of Middle School

Important Events This Tuesday

We have several important activities planned for this Tuesday, August 15, and the Middle School Office will be open throughout the day to assist with questions and logistics. Please also note that school supplies ordered through the St. Francis Parents Organization will be delivered to your student's advisory classroom this day.

FIFTH GRADE

Meet the Teacher and Locker Setup—MS Classrooms, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Each fifth grader will have a top and bottom locker, and lockers are located in the hallway outside the fifth-grade classrooms.

- Locker dimensions are 10"D x 11.25"W x 35"H.
- Please note that students may not apply stickers, tape, glue, sticky tack, or any other adhesive materials to the lockers. Magnetic devices are an acceptable alternative.
- Students may use any backpack that fits neatly in their locker with the door closed.

Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) Orientation—Fine Arts Center, 1:00–3:30 p.m.

All fifth-grade students (new and returning) are expected to attend this orientation.

- Students should wear school-appropriate casual clothes or athletic attire (closed-toe shoes are encouraged).
- Students will receive their laptops in this session.

- Fifth-grade parents, please plan to pick up your student(s) in the People Place at 3:30 p.m.

SIXTH, SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH GRADES

Meet the Teacher and Locker Setup—MS Classrooms, 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students can stop by with their families between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to meet their teachers and get set up for the new school year. MS faculty members will greet students in the People Place just outside of the Dining Hall to provide hard copies of the student's schedule and to offer directions to lockers and the advisor's room.

- **Sixth Grade:** Lockers are located in the hallway near the ramp between the fifth-grade hallway and main MS hallway. Locker dimensions are 17"D x 11.5"W x 72"H.
- **Seventh Grade:** Lockers are located in the main MS hallway. Locker dimensions are 16"D x 18"W x 65"H.
- **Eighth Grade:** Lockers are located in the main MS hallway, and locks are provided. Locker dimensions are 16"D x 18"W x 65"H.

New Student Orientation—Piney Point Gym, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

All new sixth- through eighth-grade students should attend New Student Orientation. Students will receive their laptops during this session.

Middle School Athletics Update

Welcome back, students and parents! We are very excited for the upcoming year in Athletics. Most of our students have already been practicing during the preseason, and it has been great to have them back on campus. Please see below for information regarding practice times, carpool, and contact information once school begins.

MS ATHLETICS/PE PRACTICE AND CARPOOL TIMES

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>ARRIVAL TIME</u>	<u>PRACTICE START TIME</u>	<u>PRACTICE END TIME</u>	<u>CARPOOL PICKUP*</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
MSPE	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Cross-Country	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3:40 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Girls Volleyball: 6th/7th (Piney Point)	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Football	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	4:20 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	
Girls Volleyball: 8th (Couper)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Travel time included
Boys Volleyball: 6th/7th/8th (Couper)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Travel time included
Field Hockey: 6th/7th/8th (Couper)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Travel time included

MS ATHLETICS/PE CONTACT LIST

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Boys Volleyball	Loure Dews-Gray	Volleyball Program Director	<u>L.Dews-Gray@StFrancisHouston.org</u>
Coed Cross-Country	Tony Carodine Jr.	MS Coed Cross-Country Head Coach	<u>TCarodine@StFrancisHouston.org</u>
Field Hockey	Brittany Hawkins	Field Hockey Program Head Coach	<u>BHawkins@StFrancisHouston.org</u>
Football	Charles McMillian	Football Program Head Coach	<u>ChMcMillian@StFrancisHouston.org</u>
Girls Volleyball	Loure Dews-Gray	Volleyball Program Director	<u>L.Dews-Gray@StFrancisHouston.org</u>
MSPE	Jamie Platt	Director of Physical Education	<u>JPlatt@StFrancisHouston.org</u>
General Athletics	T Riley	Director of Athletics	<u>TRiley@StFrancisHouston.org</u>

Parent Information Night Is August 30

We hope to see you at Middle School Parent Information Night on Wednesday, August 30, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

- This session offers parents the opportunity to learn about their child's classes from the teachers. Parents will travel to their students' classes, following his or her school schedule.
- Detailed information about this event will be shared via advisors and *Wolf Watch*.

Eighth-Grade Chapel and Tie Ceremony Is September 11

The Eighth-Grade Chapel and Tie Ceremony will be held on Monday, September 11, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. During the event, eighth-grade students will receive a special St. Francis tie, to be worn with their dress uniform, which distinguishes them as the student leaders of our campus. There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony for eighth-grade students and their parents.

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, August 15

- *Meet the Teacher and Locker Setup (Grades 6–8):* 8:00 a.m.-noon in MS classrooms

- *Meet the Teacher and Locker Setup (Grade 5)*: Noon–1:00 p.m. in MS classrooms
 - *Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) Orientation (Grade 5)*: 1:00–3:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
 - All fifth-grade students (new and returning) are expected to attend this orientation.
 - Fifth-grade parents, plan to pick up your student(s) in the People Place at 3:30 p.m.
 - Students will receive their laptops in this session.
 - *New Student Orientation (Grades 6–8)*: 2:00–3:30 p.m. in Piney Point Gym
 - All new sixth- through eighth-grade students should attend.
 - Students will receive their laptops during this session.
-

Wednesday, August 16

- *First Day of School*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, August 17

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel*
 - 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Friday, August 18

- *SFES Spirit Dress*: Students may wear St. Francis Spirit shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms.

Upper School

From the Interim Head of Upper School

To begin with, I would like to thank the St. Francis community for the warm welcome you have all given me. I loved being here throughout the summer, and I look forward to this year.

Having accepted the position of Interim Head of Upper School back in April, I have been able to get to know the people and the school community fairly well during my initial 10 weeks on the job. And I have a couple of observations to share with you.

First, the Upper School has now arrived. Yes, there will still be many changes and a continued maturing of the program, but it is clear that the Upper School—once comprising a small group of students—has evolved into a true high school. In 2023–24, we are welcoming the largest freshman class to date (by far), and I firmly believe that this will now be the norm. Having more students in each grade level in the St. Francis Upper School means that we will be able to add more athletics teams and other activities over the next few years.

Second, our culture is defined by those who take risks, are open-minded, and are inclusive and respectful of others. The families and faculty members who are here were undaunted by a new and untested Upper School program, and they withstood the challenges of waiting for the campus to be built, for the curriculum to progress, and for more people to attend. They have been the risk-takers, and as a result, have been patient and expectant of the positive things that have been happening here. I have never seen a faculty that is as naturally cohesive as this one. They genuinely like each other, include each other, love their students, and are vocally grateful to be here.

That gratitude is a feeling I wholeheartedly share, and I cannot wait to watch as wonderful things unfold for our Upper School students this year!

Warmly,

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of Upper School

Tomorrow: New Student Orientation Starts at 9:30 a.m.

Because all freshmen are new to Couper Campus and all are entering their high school years, we ask the entire freshman class, plus new sophomore and junior classmen, to attend the New Student Orientation tomorrow—Monday, August 14—beginning in the Crum Gym at 9:30 a.m. This year, **we are also asking parents to join their new students at the orientation.**

- After some introductions and remarks by a few members of our community, students will stay with Dean of Students Harold Baber, while all parents will join Interim Head of Upper School Mark Kelly for further remarks in the Nau Family Dining Hall. Parents will be free to go at around 11:00 a.m.
- Parking will be where you can find spaces around the campus. Some walking may be involved, as there are several spaces that may be available behind the Admissions Office.
- Returning students will arrive at noon for lunch, and the new students will join them at 12:15 p.m.
- Orientation will conclude at 3:30 p.m.

Upper School Athletics Update

Welcome back, students and parents! We are very excited for the upcoming year in Athletics.

Most of our students have already been practicing during the preseason, and it has been great to have them back on campus. Please see below for information regarding practice times, carpool, and contact information once school begins.

US ATHLETICS/PE CONTACT LIST

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Boys Volleyball	Loure Dews-Gray	Volleyball Program Director	LDews-Gray@StFrancisHouston.org
Coed Cross-Country	Chandler Krueger	US Coed Cross-Country Head Coach	CKrueger@StFrancisHouston.org
Field Hockey	Brittany Hawkins	Field Hockey Program Head Coach	BHawkins@StFrancisHouston.org
Football	Charles McMillian	Football Program Head Coach	ChMcMillian@StFrancisHouston.org
Girls Volleyball	Loure Dews-Gray	Volleyball Program Director	LDews-Gray@StFrancisHouston.org
USPE	Jamie Platt	Director of Physical Education	JPlatt@StFrancisHouston.org
General Athletics	T Riley	Director of Athletics	TRiley@StFrancisHouston.org

US Start and End Times for 2023–24

Please note that Upper School classes will start and end as follows, the same as last year:

- **Start Time:** 8:30 a.m.
- **End Time:** 3:50 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 14

- *St. Francis Spirit Dress:* Shorts and a T-shirt are appropriate
- *New Student Orientation:* 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. in Crum Gym
 - Parents are asked to attend with their students until approximately 11:00 a.m.
 - Laptops will be distributed during orientation.
- *Returning Student Orientation:* Noon–3:30 p.m. in Crum Gym; laptops will be distributed during orientation
- *Trimester 1 Fall Sports Pep Rally:* 2:45–3:30 p.m. in Crum Gym

Tuesday, August 15

- *Seniors Paint Parking Spots: 7:00 am*
-

Wednesday, August 16

- *First Day of School*
 - *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Senior Sunrise Photo: 6:30 a.m. on the Turf Field*
 - *Back-to-School Assembly: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, August 17

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Advisory: 10:00–10:30 a.m.*
-

Friday, August 18

- *“A” Day*
 - *St. Francis Spirit Dress: Wear a St. Francis Spirit T-shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Monday, August 21

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, August 22

- *“A” Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, August 23

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
 - *Senior Parent Preview and College Counseling: 6:30–8:30 p.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, August 24

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, August 25

- *“B” Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Opening Eucharist: 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Crum Gym*

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Our Family-Focused Service and Events

- **Sunday Family Worship Service:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Let It Shine Children's Bible Lesson:** On Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service, join Mrs. Devlin to learn about the Bible as we act out Scripture with costumes and props and pray together.
- **Coffee, Donuts, and Crafts:** Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service), get a cup of coffee and enjoy fellowship time while young children color, create an art project based on the lesson learned at Let it Shine, and have fun with friends.

August 13 and 20: Family Blessing for the School Year

Join us for a Family Blessing for the School Year on Sunday, August 13, and Sunday, August 20, at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Our vision is for the families of St. Francis to desire and

engage in a daily relationship with God. Be a part of this family blessing, and make a commitment to modeling the Christian faith this school year in your homes with your children.

Student Meetings Kick Off on August 13

Starting Sunday, August 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria, students are invited to join their friends for weekly meetings to talk about some amazing, Biblically inspired stories. Books will be provided. Please contact [Allison Devlin](#) to sign up.

- **Grades 1–4:** *The Dead Sea Squirrels* by Mike Nawrocki
- **Grades 5–8:** *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

High School and Adult Volunteer Opportunities: Sign Up Now

This year, we are tracking and giving awards to high school students and adults for completing hours of service at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

- There will be a Gold Wolf Award for completing 50+ service hours, a Silver Rabbit Award for completing 25–49 service hours, and a Bronze Bird for completing 10–24 service hours. Award recipients will be recognized in May on Mother's Day.
- We need volunteers to help lead weekly book clubs and First Communion Classes, set up crafts and supervise kids on Sundays, and serve at events like Pizza and Bingo Night, the Blessing of the Animals, the Children's Christmas Party, and much more!
- To sign up, please [click here](#).

Moms' Bible Study Resumes September 13

- **What:** This fall, the Moms' Bible Study will center around the First15 app, which lets you connect with God every day and explore different topics through daily devotions that feature Scripture reading, devotional thought, guided prayer, and action steps. During weekly meetings, we will gather to discuss the theme of the week, reflect on the Scriptures, and pray. Download First15 for free from the App Store or Google Play.
- **When:** Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m., beginning September 13
- **Where:** Richmond House on the Couper Campus
- **For More Information:** To sign up or with questions, contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

First Communion Classes Begin September 17

Children in second grade and up are invited to attend First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the Holy Eucharist.

- **Class Schedule:** 10:00 a.m. on the following Sundays: September 17, September 24, October 15, and October 22
- **Class Location:** School library

- **Parent Coffee:** Sunday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m.
- **Family Session:** Saturday, November 4, at 2:30 p.m.
- **First Communion Sunday:** Sunday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

Pizza and Bingo Night Is September 24

Join us for fellowship, pizza, and bingo on Sunday, September 24, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center.

Blessing of the Animals Is October 1

Bring your furry, feathered, or fishy pet friends to the school courtyard on Sunday, October 1, at 4:00 p.m. to receive a special blessing as we honor God and His amazing creation.

Outreach Ministries

- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team. For additional information, contact the church's Director of Outreach [Heather Burkhart](#).
- The **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and food donations. For additional information, email [Heather Burkhart](#). To volunteer, [click here](#).

Healing Prayers and Anointings Available

Healing prayers and anointings are always available after Sunday Eucharist services, or you may schedule an appointment with a priest. For more information or to schedule an appointment, email [Sally Jo Flores](#) or call 832.325.2983.

Share Your Prayer Requests Online

Share your prayer requests with us using the "Prayer Requests" link on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#).

Bible Studies at St. Francis

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine (1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays of each month)
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is September 12.**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** The Life of Abraham
 - **Location:** [The Corner Bakery](#) (9311 Katy Fwy.), breakfast included
 - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](#)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Ezra
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)

How to Watch Sunday Service Via Livestream

To join St. Francis Episcopal Church's 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Sunday service via livestream, open an Internet browser on your computer, laptop, or phone. Type in the St. Francis website—sfch.org. Click on the "Watch Live Stream Worship Services" button. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.