

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of January 7

All School

Construction Completed: Westheimer Access Restored

The City of Houston has completed the repair work on Fondren and S. Piney Point Road, and access from Westheimer has been restored. Thank you again for your patience!

Save the Dates for These Upcoming Events

We have some exciting events planned for this spring. Be sure to save the dates!

- **Woolrich Luncheon:** Tuesday, January 23 ([Details here](#))
- **Grandparents and Grandfriends Days on Couper Campus:** Email invites will be sent this week!
 - *Thursday, February 8:* Primary II in the morning and Upper School (ninth and twelfth grades only) at the lunch hour
 - *Friday, February 9:* Pre-Primary and Primary I in the morning
- **Gala:** Saturday, February 24 ([Details here](#))
- **Festival:** Sunday, April 28

Nominations Now Open for SFPO Officers

It's time to start thinking about the 2024–25 St. Francis Parents Organization Executive Committee. The SFPO supports the mission of St. Francis by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities that enable our parent community to uphold the four pillars of care and compassion, school spirit, teacher appreciation, and community-building.

- If you are interested in serving on the SFPO Executive Committee—or know someone who is interested—please fill out [this form](#).

- Click [here](#) to view the list of positions for which nominations are currently being accepted.

Donate Gently Used St. Francis–Branded Items for Uniform Resale

Did you clean out your closets over Christmas Break? Donate any St. Francis–branded items or uniform clothing for resale to other school families, and feel good about supporting your school!

- All items must be clean and in good used condition. Accepted St. Francis–branded items include regular- and dress-uniform items, Spirit Wear, hats, athletics shirts and shorts, hoodies, hair accessories, etc.—basically anything another pack member might enjoy!
- **We will have collection bins at morning carpool on both campuses this week (Monday, January 8–Friday, January 12).** Please plan to quickly hand your donation through your car window to ensure the carpool runs smoothly.
- You may also drop off your donation at the Piney Point Campus front office at any time.
- We will have a Uniform Resale pop-up later in January, so stay tuned for more information on that!

Volunteers Needed This Week! Help Hang Art

Please come help hang art in the Student Life Building on Couper Campus this Tuesday and Wednesday! It is not necessary to have a student in Upper School. This is a great chance to check out some Upper School artwork, see what’s happening in the new building, and help out. Please join us in the morning on either Tuesday, January 9, or Wednesday, January 10 (or both)!

- [Sign Up to Volunteer this Tuesday, January 9](#)
- [Sign Up to Volunteer this Wednesday, January 10](#)

With questions, please [email Annie Hartigan](#).

This Is Us Cultural Festival: Sign Up to Participate by This Friday

We are excited to invite your family to participate in St. Francis’s inaugural This Is Us Festival—A Celebration of Our Cultures on **Friday, March 1**. Families (yours and others), teachers, and staff will work together to share information about their country, region, or culture. Through internationally themed booths and performances, attendees will learn about each country, region, or culture’s history, cuisine, pictures, trinkets, language, music and musical instruments, masks, clothing, and expression. **Please submit [this form](#) by this Friday, January 12, to indicate participation.**

Hey Wolf Pack—Save the Dates!

MIDDLE SCHOOL: NOTHIN' BUT NET AND NACHOS—TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Middle Schoolers, come out to cheer on the Upper School Boys Basketball team against First Baptist! Nothin' but Net and Nachos will be held Tuesday, January 16, at 6:30 p.m. in Crum Gym. There will be free nachos, swag, photo ops, and a shooting contest. Can't wait to see you there!

LOWER SCHOOL: HOOPS AND SCOOPS—FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Lower Schoolers, come out to cheer on the Upper School Boys Basketball team against Westbury Christian—and grab some ice cream and toppings while you're here! Hoops and Scoops will be held Friday, January 26, at 5:30 p.m. in Crum Gym. There will be swag, photo ops with Wolfie, and sweet treats!

Primary School

Message From the Head of School

As we welcome the new year, it is with immense gratitude and joy that I extend my warmest wishes to each member of our remarkable St. Francis Episcopal School community. Our parents, faculty, and staff have worked together to create an environment of learning, growth, and positivity for our students, and I am filled with appreciation for the energy and enthusiasm that made the first half of the school year such a wonderful time for us all.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our shared vision of academic excellence, faith, and community spirit. Later this month, I will be sharing moments of pride for our school, as well as exciting news and opportunities that lie ahead.

If you are one for making New Year's resolutions, I encourage you to join me in resolving to keep the momentum going. Let's build upon our successes and soar to even greater heights in the second half of the school year.

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." —Psalm 118:24

May God continue to bless you in the new year.

Dr. Chelsea Pope Collins
Head of School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 8

- *Classes Resume*

Tuesday, January 9

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith)*

Wednesday, January 10

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton)*

Friday, January 12

- *Primary School Epiphany: Students only*

Monday, January 15

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday: No school*

Tuesday, January 16

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith)*
- *Pajama Ingathering*

Wednesday, January 17

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton)*
- *Pajama Ingathering*

Thursday, January 18

- *Pajama Ingathering*
-

Friday, January 19

- *Primary School Pajamarama: Students only*
 - *Pajama Ingathering*
-

Tuesday, January 23

- *Chapel Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith)*
-

Wednesday, January 24

- *Chapel Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton)*
-

Friday, January 26

- *Pre-Primary Fathers and Friends*
-

Tuesday, January 30

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith)*
-

Wednesday, January 31

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton)*

Lower School

Message From the Head of School

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Reminder: Please Sign Into Raptor and Display Your Parent Name Badge

Please help us keep our community safe by signing into Raptor and wearing a visible parent name badge anytime you are on Piney Point Campus.

- Reminder, you must present your driver's license to security the first time you visit campus so they can enter you in the Raptor security system. Once your information is in the system, you can simply sign in at the Raptor station to print out a name badge.
- Signing into Raptor each time you visit helps us quickly identify visitors in the building in case of an emergency.
- Please note that even if you already have a name badge from your division office, you must still sign into Raptor upon your arrival.

Thank you!

Grades 2–4: Current Cybersafety Discussions + Crime Stoppers to Visit on January 22

Steve Johnson, Director of Instructional Technology, has been meeting with students in Grades 2–4 to discuss cybersafety.

- Students have learned useful strategies to keep themselves safe online, protect their privacy, and create positive online communities.
- A printed copy of an agreement to follow the guidelines covered in the presentation has been placed in students' WOLF folders. Parents are encouraged to discuss the agreement with their child, sign it, and return it to their child's teacher in January.
- To further the discussion, Houston Crime Stoppers will be on campus on Monday, January 22, to present additional important information about keeping safe online.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 8

- *Classes Resume*
 - *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, January 11

- *Eucharist 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.
-

Friday, January 12

- *LS Step Forward Day*
-

Monday, January 15

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday: No school*

Middle School

Message From the Head of School

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- Signing into Raptor each time you visit helps us quickly identify visitors in the building in case of an emergency.
- Please note that even if you already have a name badge from your division office, you must still sign into Raptor upon your arrival.

Thank you!

Eighth-Grade Parents: Purchase Yearbook Recognition Ads by This Friday

The deadline to purchase a Yearbook Recognition Ad for your child is this Friday, January 12!

- [Click here](#) for details, including the link to order.
- See [this flyer](#) for additional directions.
- With questions, please [email Monica Gutierrez](#).

Travel News: Japan Trip Now Available to Rising Ninth Graders, Summer Travel Registration Deadline Extended + New Dates for Spain/France Trip

Please note the following important updates to our St. Francis Travel Program for summer 2024:

- Our travel partner, ACIS, has allowed us to reopen registration for the summer trips to Japan and Spain/France! Sign-ups are open now through Tuesday, January 30. [Click here](#) for trip details and information on how to register.
- Big news! Rising ninth graders who are attending St. Francis Upper School in fall 2024 are now eligible to participate in the Japan trip.

- **The Spain/France trip has been moved to June 17–27, 2024.**
- Financial assistance for summer travel with the St. Francis Travel Program is still available through the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund. [Click here to apply.](#)

For details on our summer 2024 travel opportunities, including information on how to register, [click here](#).

A Note About Community Service Hours

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. During the 2023–24 school year, **students in each grade level are required to complete a minimum number of service hours**, as follows:

- **Fifth Grade:** 10 hours
- **Sixth Grade:** 10 hours
- **Seventh Grade:** 15 hours
- **Eighth Grade:** 20 hours

At the Recognition and Awards Ceremony in the spring, **students in any grade level who have completed 20, 30, 50, or 100+ service hours during the school term will receive a certificate recognizing their achievements.** In addition, one graduating student will be recognized for exemplifying and representing the quality of being a “person for others.”

To submit your service hours, complete this [Community Service Hours Request Form](#) and drop it off in the Middle School Office or email it to [Sarah Flores](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 8

- *Regular Uniform (Dress Uniform on Thursday for Eucharist)*
 - *“A” Day*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
-

Tuesday, January 9

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *“B” Day*
-

Wednesday, January 10

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *“A” Day*
 - *Middle School Admissions Tour: 9:30–11:00 a.m.*
-

Thursday, January 11

- *Dress Uniform*
 - *“B” Day*
 - *Middle School Epiphany Eucharist Chapel*
-

Friday, January 12

- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
 - *“A” Day*
-

Monday, January 15

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday: School closed*
-

Tuesday, January 16

- *Dress Uniform*
 - *“B” Day*
-

Wednesday, January 17

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *“A” Day*
-

Thursday, January 18

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *“B” Day*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
-

Friday, January 19

- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
- *“A” Day*

Upper School

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May God continue to bless you in the new year.

Dr. Chelsea Pope Collins
Head of School

Twelfth-Grade Parents: Purchase Yearbook Recognition Ads by This Friday

The deadline to purchase a Yearbook Recognition Ad for your senior is this Friday, January 12!

- [Click here](#) for details, including the link to order.
- See [this flyer](#) for additional directions.

- With questions, please [email Monica Gutierrez](#).

School of Music Expanding to Upper School

The School of Music program will be expanding to the Upper School this spring 2024!

- **Students may opt to take lessons in piano, voice, violin/viola, and guitar.**
- Lessons occur throughout the school day at times approved by the divisions. All lesson scheduling is arranged by our School of Music Program Manager, Dr. Andrew Nishikawa, in collaboration with Division Assistant Heads.
- [Click here to register](#) via our new Explore and Extend Portal, under the “School of Music” section.
- With questions, please [email Dr. Nishikawa](#).

Summer Travel News: Registration Deadline Extended + New Spain/France Dates!

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- Our travel partner, ACIS, has allowed us to reopen registration for the summer trips to Japan and Spain/France! Sign-ups are open now through Tuesday, January 30. [Click here](#) for trip details and information on how to register.
- **The Spain/France trip has been moved to June 17–27, 2024.**
- Financial assistance for summer travel with the St. Francis Travel Program is still available through the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund. [Click here to apply](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 8

- *Classes Resume*
 - *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, January 9

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, January 10

- *“A” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Epiphany Eucharist Chapel: 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, January 11

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, January 12

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

Monday, January 15

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday: No school*
-

Tuesday, January 16

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, January 17

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, January 18

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, January 19

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

Saturday, January 20

- *Upper School Winter Social:* 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Couper Campus; dress is Spirit Wear casual

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 while young children color, create an art project based on the lesson learned at Let it Shine, and have fun with friends.

Students, Join Us for Weekly Book Studies on Sundays

On Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria, join your 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

Now on Spotify: Sermons From St. Francis

St. Francis has launched [**Sermons From St. Francis**](#) on **Spotify**. You can listen on an Apple or Android device, on your desktop computer, or on your tablet. The Sunday sermons are available anytime you want to be inspired while on the go. No Spotify account is necessary. [**Click here**](#) to start listening today!

Outreach Ministries: Opportunities to Serve

For additional information about any of the following outreach opportunities, please contact the church's Director of Outreach [**Heather Burkhart**](#).

- **Lord of the Streets** needs weekday volunteers between 8:00 a.m. and noon to serve our homeless neighbors. Over 300 hot meals are served daily. St. Francis also collects men's clothes on an ongoing basis—men's shoes are always needed.
- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team.
- The **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and non-perishable food donations.

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, serve at events like the Children's Christmas Party, and much more!
- To sign up, please [**click here**](#) or scan the QR code below with your mobile phone:



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](mailto:SallyJoFlores@stfrancis.org) 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.
 - **Study:** Exodus
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine (1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays of each month)
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**The next meeting is January 9.**)
 - **Study:** The Book of Genesis (Life of Jacob)
 - **Location:** [The Corner Bakery](#) (9311 Katy Fwy.), breakfast included
 - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](#)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Women of the Old Testament
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Location:** Via Zoom (Contact Louise for additional information.)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Articles of Religion
 - **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.