

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of January 21

### All School

#### **Important! Changes to Piney Point Carpool Start Tomorrow!**

We are so excited that church construction is complete! While the building is not yet open, we are able to use the driveway in the back for carpool, which means **Middle School carpool is now able to resume a route similar to the one used prior to construction.**

On Friday, we sent important information about what this means for carpool on Piney Point Campus, starting tomorrow—Monday, January 22. Please [click here to view the email](#), or visit the Parent Portal and check Division Resources for updated carpool information documents.

#### **Online Re-enrollment Opens in February**

We want you to come back to the pack! Save the date for online re-enrollment, which opens Thursday, February 1. Please note that if you have students moving from one division to another, you do not need to reapply—you simply need to re-enroll them. Check your email in the coming weeks for details and specific instructions on how to re-enroll.

#### **Support our Eighth-Grade Girls Basketball Team in the HJPC**

Please come help support our eighth-grade girls basketball team as we head into our Houston Junior Preparatory Conference Tournament tomorrow—Monday, January 22. The girls have a record of 9–1, and have worked extremely hard this season. The tournament games will be held in **Piney Point Gym** according to the following schedule:

- **Monday, January 22:** First round of HJPC Tournament at 6:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, January 23:** Second round of HJPC Tournament at 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 25:** HJPC championship game at 5:00 p.m.

We hope all Primary through Upper School students will come out to support this schoolwide event! Go Wolves!

### **See You at Lower School Hoops and Scoops This Friday!**

It's time for Lower School Night at the Varsity Boys Basketball game! Come cheer on our Varsity Boys Basketball team against Westbury Christian this Friday, January 26, in Crum Gym. Be sure to join us for free ice cream sundaes in the Student Life Center before the game!

- 4:30 p.m.—JV Boys Basketball game vs. Westbury Christian in Crum Gym
- 5:00 p.m.—Chick-Fil-A available, along with regular concessions
- 5:00–5:45 p.m.—Ice cream sundaes for students in the SLC
- 6:00 p.m.—Varsity Boys Basketball game vs. Westbury Christian in Crum Gym

There will be SFE swag, photo ops with Wolfie, and halftime fanfare from our amazing Cheer team! We hope to see all of you there. Go Wolves!

### **STEAM Came to Life at St. Francis This Week!**

On January 17 and 18, the Crum Library, Fine Arts Center, and Middle School Maker Space came to life with hands-on activities and exciting demonstrations. St. Francis' STEAM Fair is a celebration of student achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Students in grades K–8 guided their schoolmates through activities and projects like 3D-printed CAD design, DIY LED flashlights and light sabers, four different levels of robotics, and video games with custom-built controllers. In the Middle School Science Fair, more than 290 students presented their scientific research. Projects were judged by faculty, and ribbons awarded to the top projects in each grade. Kudos to all who participated—and special thanks to our presenters and parent volunteers!

### **January 30: Uniform Resale and NEW Spirit Wear Pop-up**

Exciting new Spirit Wear styles have just landed in the Spirit Store! The SFPO will be hosting a joint **Spirit Store/Uniform Resale Pop-up on Tuesday, January 30, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Gay Foyer on Piney Point Campus.**

- We have new outerwear in both Youth and Adult sizes, as well as multiple new T-shirt designs for spring!
- We carry sizes 3T to XXXL in most Spirit Wear items, and we have SFE hats, visors, and hair bows, too!
- Come shop the new designs, as well as gently used uniforms and SFE-branded goods for Wolves of all ages.

### ***There's No Place Like Home: Buy Your Copy Today***

A book that truly encompasses what it means to be part of the St. Francis

community, *There's No Place Like Home* contains pieces written by faculty, staff, alumni, and students from every grade level—all in honor of our beloved Father Wismer!

- Proceeds from the book will be combined with Paddles Up, a Gala-night tradition, to create The Father Bob Wismer "People for Others" Endowed Fund for Tuition Assistance.
- [Click here](#) to purchase your copy today!

*"All the wonderful things about St. Francis Episcopal School can be found in the pages of this book . . . who knew you could put such feelings into words?"* —Mary Peña, Assistant Head of Lower School

### **Nominations Now Open for SFPO Officers**

*Did you know? Students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school, regardless of their family's income or background.*

With that in mind, it's time to start thinking about the 2024–25 St. Francis Parents Organization Executive Committee! This is your chance to get involved and “be the change” to help enhance the everyday school experience for all students of SFE.

- 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.

### **NEW DATE: Nothin' but Net and Nachos . . . and Senior Night!**

Middle School Night at the Varsity Boys Basketball game—Nothin' but Net and Nachos—has been **rescheduled for Friday, February 2!** Come out and enjoy nachos with friends while cheering on the Varsity Boys Basketball team as they take on Northland Christian in Crum Gym. We will also be celebrating our senior athletes that night.

- 6:00–6:45 p.m.—Swag, photo ops, and free nachos for all students (while supplies last)!
- 7:00 p.m.—Varsity Boys Basketball game against Northland Christian

**New This Year:** Eighth graders may enter a raffle to participate in a three-point shooting contest at halftime.

Can't wait to see you there—go Wolves!

## **Primary School**

### **From the Director of Athletics**

The mission of the Athletics program is as follows: St. Francis Athletics strives to offer students a variety of competitive team and individual sports framed in a positive and inclusive environment, with a purposeful progression from sixth grade through twelfth grade. Student-athletes have the opportunity to strengthen skills, develop as players and athletes, compete in the sports they have chosen, and learn valuable life lessons during their time as a St. Francis student-athlete.

I believe that participation in Athletics is a very important part of the educational experience. Participation in athletics promotes physical activity and fitness, helps create a sense of community and school pride, and teaches valuable life lessons, including the importance of commitment, responsibility, integrity, competition, sportsmanship, teamwork, and more. We are glad to know that approximately 85 percent of Middle and Upper School students participate on a team each year.

Our student-athletes and coaches have been engaged in Athletics since the end of July and early August. We have competed in more than 400 competitions to date, and thousands of combined hours have been poured into the fall and winter seasons. We look forward to closing out the winter season strong and to preparing for a successful spring season.

Coaches can have a powerful positive influence on their players, and our coaching staff recently shared with me memorable life lessons they received from coaches who made a difference in their own lives. Here are a few of those lessons:

- Always put God first.
- Be humble.
- Respect the game.
- Outwork your opponent in your practice.
- Lead by example.
- Never get tired of doing the right thing.
- Hold yourself accountable.
- Make them remember you by your integrity and character.
- Leave it all on the field.
- Respect the name on your back.
- Make your parents proud.
- Make the school you are at happy you were there.
- Never quit.
- Play as a team.
- Do your job.
- Do the extra.
- Never have regrets.

I will leave you with this final comment made by one of our coaches, which powerfully demonstrates the positive impact a coach can have: "One of the best life lessons I have ever

learned was from my high school baseball coach. He always taught us to stay even-keeled on and off the field the best we could. There are so many highs and lows, ups and downs throughout life. I was taught this at 15 years old and still keep this approach today!"

We look forward to seeing you at a game sometime soon.

Go Wolves,

T Riley  
Director of Athletics

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Monday, January 22**

- *Open Library*: 3:00 p.m.
- 

#### **Tuesday, January 23**

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith)*: Primary II parents may attend
- 

#### **Wednesday, January 24**

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton)*: Primary I parents may attend
- 

#### **Friday, January 26**

- *Pre-Primary Fathers and Friends*: 8:15–9:00 a.m.
- 

#### **Tuesday, January 30**

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith)*: Primary II parents may attend

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**Wednesday, January 31**

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend

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**Monday, February 5**

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.

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**Tuesday, February 6**

- *No Chapel*

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**Wednesday, February 7**

- *No Chapel*

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**Thursday, February 8**

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Primary II*

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**Friday, February 9**

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Primary I and Pre-Primary*

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**Monday, February 12**

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
-

## **Tuesday, February 13**

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend
- 

## **Wednesday, February 14**

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend
  - *PS Valentine Parties (Students Only)*
- 

## **Monday, February 19**

- *Presidents' Day Holiday:* No school
- 

## **Tuesday, February 20**

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend
- 

## **Wednesday, February 21**

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend
- 

## **Friday, February 23**

- *Darla McNay Rodeo Day*
  - *Go Texan Day:* No guns or spurs, please
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## **Saturday, February 24**

- *St. Francis Gala*

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## Monday, February 26

- *Open Library: 3:00 p.m.*

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## Tuesday, February 27

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith): Primary II parents may attend*

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## Wednesday, February 28

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton): Primary I parents may attend*

## Lower School

### **From the Director of Athletics**

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I will leave you with this final comment made by one of our coaches, which powerfully demonstrates the positive impact a coach can have: “One of the best life lessons I have ever learned was from my high school baseball coach. He always taught us to stay even-keeled on and off the field the best we could. There are so many highs and lows, ups and downs throughout life. I was taught this at 15 years old and still keep this approach today!”

We look forward to seeing you at a game sometime soon.

Go Wolves,

T Riley  
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### **See You at Lower School Hoops and Scoops This Friday!**

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There will be SFE swag, photo ops with Wolfie, and halftime fanfare from our amazing Cheer team! We hope to see all of you there. Go Wolves!

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Monday, January 22**

- *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.
- 

### **Wednesday, January 24**

- *LS Parent Conferences*: No school for students; held in classrooms
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### **Thursday, January 25**

- *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 26**

- *LS Hoops and Scoops*: 5:00 p.m.
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### **Monday, January 29**

- *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.
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### **Tuesday, January 30**

- *Kindergarteners Celebrate 100th Day of School*

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## Wednesday, January 31

- *Fourth-to-Fifth Step Forward Day*: Fourth graders visit fifth grade
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## Thursday, February 1

- *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 Director of Athletics**

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T Riley  
Director of Athletics

### **MS Athletics: Winter Sports End Friday + Spring Sports Start January 29**

Congratulations to our student-athletes, coaches, and teams on a successful winter season—and thanks to our St. Francis parents for all the support! Good luck to those teams still competing this coming week.

- Our winter season will conclude this Friday, January 26. Please note that students will need to return all uniforms and issued equipment.
- Spring sports will begin on Monday, January 29. More details on spring sports will be shared in next week’s *Wolf Watch*.

### **NEW DATE: Nothin’ but Net and Nachos . . . and Senior Night!**

Middle School Night at the Varsity Boys Basketball game—Nothin’ but Net and Nachos—has been **rescheduled for Friday, February 2!** Come out and enjoy nachos with friends while cheering on the Varsity Boys Basketball team as they take on Northland Christian in Crum Gym. We will also be celebrating our senior athletes that night.

- 6:00–6:45 p.m.—Swag, photo ops, and free nachos for all students (while supplies last)!
- 7:00 p.m.—Varsity Boys Basketball game against Northland Christian

**New This Year:** Eighth graders may enter a raffle to participate in a three-point shooting contest at halftime.

Can't wait to see you there—go Wolves!

### **#WinAtSocial Advisory Lesson Update: A Look at AI and Schoolwork**

Your student's advisory just ran the #WinAtSocial Lesson, examining what's inbounds vs. out-of-bounds when it comes to AI and schoolwork. As you have time, continue the conversation at home about these important modern-day life skills. Consider encouraging your child to coach up and share their ideas.

Here are some questions you can pose to everyone in the family:

- **TOSS UP:** Artificial intelligence is growing faster than ever. If you could create your own AI assistant, what would you want it to do for you?
- **COACH UP:** I heard that you learned about art made by AI in school today. Can you think of a situation where AI might not be the best tool to use for homework or a school project?
- **Huddle UP:** If your school had to make a rule about AI, what do you think it should be?

Discover more insights and expert tips on social media and tech by checking out the [\*\*Parent Toolkit\*\*](#).

- As part of the school's partnership with The Social Institute, you receive exclusive access to the [\*\*Parent Toolkit\*\*](#). This includes a full library of content specifically for families—all cocreated with students and experts around the country.
- [\*\*Platform Playbooks\*\*](#) feature expert breakdowns of the most popular apps and platforms, and offer tips on how students can use them positively. TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, ChatGPT, Fortnite . . . the list goes on and on!
- [\*\*Family Huddles\*\*](#) help you reinforce the important modern-day life skills that your child is learning at school. These topics align with #WinAtSocial Lessons to extend discussion beyond the classroom and encourage students to huddle with their families.
- Use your Parent Toolkit School Code and activate your free account today:
  - [\*\*Activate Your Account\*\*](#) or [\*\*Log In\*\*](#)
  - **Your Parent Toolkit School Code: 28edCDD8EF644B**

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

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.
- 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.](#)

Please [email Ted Lakoski](#), Director of Experiential Travel, with any questions.

## 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 22

- *“B” Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Crime Stoppers Presentation to Fifth Grade: 12:30–12:55 p.m.*

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### Tuesday, January 23

- *“A” Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
- 

### **Wednesday, January 24**

- *Parent Conferences:* No school for students
- 

### **Thursday, January 25**

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

### **Friday, January 26**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
  - *Club 2*
- 

### **Monday, January 29**

- *“B” Day*
  - *Dress Uniform*
- 

### **Tuesday, January 30**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### **Wednesday, January 31**

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Fourth-to-Fifth Step Forward Day:* Fourth graders visit fifth grade

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## Thursday, February 1

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

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## Friday, February 2

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
- *Club 1*
- *Nothin’ but Net and Nachos: 6:00 pm*

## Upper School

### **From the Director of Athletics**

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## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, January 22

- *"B" Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### Tuesday, January 23

- *"A" Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Balfour Visits With Juniors and Seniors Interested in Purchasing Senior Rings: 11:55 a.m.–12:55 p.m. at the Student Life Center staircase*
- 

### Wednesday, January 24

- *"B" Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
- 

### Thursday, January 25

- *"A" Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### Friday, January 26

- *"B" 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 29

- *"A" Day*

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## **Church**

### **Spring First Communion Classes Start January 28**

First Communion classes begin this coming **Sunday, January 28**. This course is designed to prepare students in second grade and older to receive the Holy Eucharist.

- **WHEN:** Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on January 28, February 4, February 11, and February 25
- **EVENTS TO NOTE:**
  - *Parent Coffee:* During the February 4 class at 10:00 a.m.
  - *Family Session:* Saturday, March 2, at 2:30 p.m.

- *First Communion Sunday*: Sunday, March 3, at the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service

### **Palm Sunday Passion Pageant Is March 24**

Join us on Sunday, March 24, at 9:00 a.m. for our annual LIVE Palm Sunday Passion Pageant. Children and teens are invited to participate as we re-enact the events of Holy Week, waving palm branches as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey and reciting the Passion Gospel.

### **Walk to Calvary Is March 29**

Children, join us for an interactive journey of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 29, at noon. Families are welcome to participate with their children. Please Note: Children ages 6 and up can be dropped off while parents attend the Good Friday service in the church at noon.

### **Easter Sunday Celebration Is March 31**

He is risen! Join us on Sunday, March 31, at 9:00 a.m. for our Family Easter Service, where we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After the service, children will have an opportunity to pet and feed bunnies, and will enjoy an Easter egg hunt. (Please bring a basket!)

### **May 12: High School Graduate Blessing**

Graduating from high school and heading off to college or other pursuits is a life-changing event. We invite all high school graduates to join us on Sunday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the church for a short service of prayers and blessings to mark this momentous event.

### **Spring Events at St. Francis**

We have so many fun events planned over the next few months!

- [Click here](#) for details on church events and volunteer opportunities in spring 2024.
- To sign up to volunteer, please [click here](#).

### **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 February 13.**)
  - **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](http://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.