

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of December 1

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

Whoever wants to become great among you must be a servant. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. —Mark 10:43, 45

Advent Note From The Chaplains

We have been reading Advent Scripture stories with students in Kindergarten through Upper School in preparation for this holy season. If you and your family would like to follow along we have a few Advent blocks and book sets available. Please contact Mother Emily Hylden at EHylden@StFrancisHouston.org if you would like to purchase one.

Request Prayer and Other Support

Use [this Care and Compassion Support Request form](#) to submit confidential prayer requests directly to the chaplains. There is also a section on the form to request specific tangible support for yourself or others, beyond prayer, if needed.

Giving Week is December 2–6!

At this time of year, we count our blessings for the joyful spirit of giving in our St. Francis community! We can't wait for **Giving Week** to begin so we can recognize your support of the St. Francis Fund, a precious gift we want to celebrate. With reasons to give and examples of the impact your gifts make, we hope to encourage participation by every family. Thank you for giving so joyfully! (If you want to make a gift now, click [HERE](#).)

Tee Off for a Great Cause: Join Us February 24 for Our Inaugural Golf Tournament

You're invited to GOLF FORE SFE on Monday, February 24, 2025, for a day filled with friendly competition, community spirit, and a shared mission to make a difference in the lives of St. Francis students. All proceeds from this event go to the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund. **Foursomes are filling fast, so don't wait—register your team [here](#) today**, and get ready to tee off in style. Don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible day!

Last Chance to Give: SFPO Employee Christmas Gift Collection Closes TODAY at 11:59 p.m.!

Help make the holiday season merry and bright by contributing to this year's **[Employee Christmas Gift Collection](#)**. Click [here](#) to learn more about this collection and why it's such an important part of the St. Francis Parents Organization's employee appreciation efforts. Every gift makes a difference, no matter how big or small.

Please make your contribution before the deadline today, Sunday, December 1, at 11:59 p.m. by [clicking here](#).

Friday: Shop the Spirit Store Cottage

Our new Spirit Store Cottage (on Couper Campus) will open twice a month, every first and third Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Be sure to visit this Friday, December 6. Please note that the Spirit Store Cottage will NOT be open on Friday, December 20.

Tuesday: Volunteers Needed for Uniform Resale Team

Please consider helping the uniform resale team this Tuesday, December 3. Come chat with other moms while we hang clothes for an upcoming winter pop-up sale. Sign-up slots are available between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. that day, and we would really appreciate the help. Stay as long as you like. All are welcome to join!

[Click here](#) to volunteer to help out!

Now Delivering Letters to Santa

From now through Monday, December 9, all of our St. Francis families are invited to drop letters to Santa in the special red mailboxes on both campuses. It's the fastest service around, with direct delivery to the North Pole ... guaranteed! To give Santa and his busy elves enough time to reply, please make sure your child's letter is in the mailbox by December 9.

Click the links below for form letters you can print at home:

- **[Primary School](#)**

- **Lower School**

Letters need the following information:

- Student's first and last name
- Grade
- Return address

Thank you for helping us spread some Christmas cheer!

FoFA Meets This Friday: Join Us

Please join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) this Friday, December 6, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Administration Building at 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.

Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 2

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

Tuesday, December 3

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend
-

Wednesday, December 4

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.: Primary I parents are invited to attend
-

Monday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 10

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend
-

Wednesday, December 11

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend

Lower School

Lower School Christmas Concert Series Kicks Off Wednesday

Our students are excited to celebrate the holiday season with a series of Christmas music performances:

- **Kindergarten Christmas Concert:** Wednesday, December 4, from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
- **First- and Second-Grade Christmas Concert:** Monday, December 9, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
- **Third- and Fourth-Grade Christmas Concert:** Tuesday, December 10, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center

For additional details, please [click here](#).

Joyful Sounds to Perform at Christmas Choir Concert on December 12

Save the date for a Christmas Choir Concert on Thursday, December 12, featuring Joyful Sounds and the Middle and Upper School Choirs. The concert will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. [Click here for details.](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 2

- *Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Wednesday, December 4

- *Kindergarten Christmas Concert: 1:00–1:30 p.m. in the FAC*

Thursday, December 5

- *St. Nicholas Eucharist Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.*

Friday, December 6

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering With Santa: 9:00–11:00 a.m. in the People Place; students only*

Monday, December 9

- *Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.*
- *First- and Second-Grade Christmas Concert: 1:00–2:00 p.m. in FAC*

Tuesday, December 10

- *Third- and Fourth-Grade Christmas Concert: 1:00–2:00 p.m. in the FAC*

Thursday, December 12

- *Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.*

Middle School**ERB Testing Is Next Week**

ERB testing will be held each morning on Monday, December 9; Tuesday, December 10; and Wednesday, December 11.

- Test results are used to measure student progress and to guide instruction. Results from this testing are also used in the Advanced Academics application process, which begins at the end of March.
- Please avoid scheduling appointments before lunch on those days to minimize the number of makeup tests required.
- Students with extended time should report to school at 7:30 a.m. on these three days to begin testing by 7:45 a.m.
- All students are asked to eat a good breakfast, bring a healthy snack, and bring a book for independent reading. To encourage a good night's sleep for all students, there will be no homework due or additional assessments on these days.

US/MS Dance Concert Is Friday

The St. Francis Upper and Middle School Dance Concert, [*Moving Spaces*](#), premieres on Friday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Don't miss it!

Middle and Upper School Choirs to Perform at Christmas Concert on December 12

Save the date for a Christmas Choir Concert on Thursday, December 12, featuring Joyful Sounds and the Middle and Upper School Choirs. The concert will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. [Click here for details.](#)

Honor Your Student With a Yearbook Ad

Parents of eighth graders, *The Howler* staff is excited to offer you the opportunity to place a special recognition ad for your student in the 2025 edition of our yearbook.

- Full-page ads are \$500, and half-page ads are \$250. You can create your own ad by clicking on [this link](#) and completing the steps. [This video tutorial](#) will help you create your ad.
- All ads must be completed by Friday, January 17, 2025, to appear in the book.
- If you have any questions, please contact [Monica Gutierrez](#).

Deadlines Approaching for Summer Trips: Register for Europe by Friday

Calling all rising sixth and ninth graders: The Washington, DC, and Europe trips are still accepting registrations—but the December deadlines are approaching fast! See below for more information, and reach out to Ted Lakoski, Director of Experiential Travel, at 713.458.6157 or via [email](#) with questions.

- **Washington, DC**
 - [Registration deadline is Friday, December 13.](#)
 - **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled sixth graders
 - **Date:** June 1–5, 2025
 - **Trip Leader:** Maria Cruzalegui

- Trip Information and Application:
 - [Trip Details and Registration Information](#)
 - [Required St. Francis Travel Application \(To Be Printed\)](#)
- Parent Information Session: [Click here](#) to watch the recording.
- **Europe**
 - **Registration deadline is this Friday, December 6.**
 - **Where:** London, Paris, Italy, Lucerne, and more!
 - **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
 - **Date:** June 2–13, 2025
 - **Trip Leader:** Ted Lakoski, assisted by Marion Tolon (Coach T)
 - Trip Information and Application:
 - [Trip Details and Registration Information](#)
 - [Required St. Francis Travel Application \(To Be Printed\)](#)
 - Parent Information Session: [Click here](#) to watch the recording.

A Note About Community Service Hours

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. During the 2024–25 school year, students in each grade level are required to participate in completing a minimum number of service hours, as follows:

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

To submit your service hours, complete the [Community Service Hours Request Form](#) and drop it off in the Middle School Office or email a PDF to Sarah Flores. The deadline to submit volunteer hours for the 2024–25 school year is Friday, May 2, 2025.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 2

- “A” Day
- **Regular Uniform**
- *Regular Class Schedule*
- *Chapel: 9:50–10:20 a.m.*

Tuesday, December 3

- “B” Day

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Regular Class Schedule*
 - *Seventh-Grade Field Trip to Alley Theatre to Watch 'A Christmas Carol'*
 - *Middle School Choir Goes Caroling: 9:00 a.m. at The Tradition senior living community*
-

Wednesday, December 4

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Regular Class Schedule*
-

Thursday, December 5

- *"B" Day*
 - ***Dress Uniform***
 - *Special Schedule*
 - *St. Nicholas Eucharist Chapel: 9:40 a.m.*
-

Friday, December 6

- *"A" Day*
 - *St. Francis Spirit Wear: St. Francis Spirit Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Regular Schedule/"A" Clubs*
 - *Middle School and Upper School Dance Concert: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, December 9

- *"B" Day*
 - ***ERB Testing: 7:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.***
 - *Special Schedule*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, December 10

- "A" Day
 - **ERB Testing: 7:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**
 - *Special Schedule*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, December 11

- "B" Day
 - **ERB Testing: 7:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**
 - *Special Schedule*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *MS Christmas Concert Rehearsal for Choir Members: 12:45–2:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, December 12

- "A" Day
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50–10:20 a.m.*
 - *All-School Christmas Concert: 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church*
-

Friday, December 13

- "B" Day
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear: St. Francis Spirit tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms*
- *Regular Schedule/"B" Clubs*

Upper School

Couper Campus Concession Stand: Expanded Snack Options

For all Upper School students who are involved in after-school activities, the concession stand by Crum Gym now offers more substantial snack options every day until about 6:00 p.m., or while supplies last. The menu will change from week to week, but will include salads, sandwiches, and protein boxes. Students can pay with cash, credit card, or Apple Pay.

The Social Institute: 'Handle the Pressure'

In the past week, each advisory group ran a specific Social Institute lesson on the topic of "Handle the Pressure," considering and exploring adaptive ways to manage stress and challenges. Please click on your student's grade link below for further information on the curriculum and for resources that will help you continue the conversation at home.

- **Ninth Grade:** Representing Something Bigger Than Ourselves Online
- **Tenth Grade:** Examining the Impact of Stress on Sleep
- **Eleventh Grade:** Giving and Receiving Constructive Feedback Without Taking It Personally
- **Twelfth Grade:** Dealing With Internal vs. External Expectations About Life After Graduation

Save the Date: Varsity and Junior Varsity Athletic Banquet Is May 13

Please join us on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to honor our St. Francis Wolves at the 2024–25 Varsity and Junior Varsity Athletic Banquet. The evening will be filled with great food, fun, entertainment, and excitement as we celebrate our fall, winter, and spring sports teams.

- **Who:** Varsity and Junior Varsity student-athletes and their parents
- **What:** 2024–25 Varsity and Junior Varsity Athletic Banquet
- **When:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:00–8:15 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Program starts at 6:45 p.m.)
- **Where:** Crum Gym
- **Tickets:** Buffet-style meal; RSVP link will open on Monday, January 13, 2025
 - *Parents:* \$25
 - *Student-Athletes and Coaches:* Free

With questions, please contact Ernest Robertson Jr., Director of Athletics, at 713.458.6336 or via [email](#).

US/MS Dance Concert Is Friday

The St. Francis Upper and Middle School Dance Concert, **Moving Spaces**, premieres this Friday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Don't miss it!

Pay Advanced Placement Exam Fees by Friday

A friendly reminder that Advanced Placement exam fees are due by this Friday, December 6. Check your email for payment instructions and the link to pay. With questions, please email [Claudia Mejia](#), Director of College Counseling.

Register by Friday for Summer 2025 Europe Trip

Student interest is growing fast for our summer tour of England, France, Italy, and Switzerland. Sign up to reserve your space now! For more information, please watch the recorded information session (link below) or reach out to Ted Lakoski, Director of Experiential Travel, at 713.458.6157 or via [email](#).

- **Registration deadline is this Friday, December 6.**
- **Where:** London, Paris, Italy, Lucerne, and more!
- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
- **Date:** June 2–13, 2025
- **Trip Leader:** Ted Lakoski, assisted by Marion Tolon (Coach T)
- **Trip Information and Application:**
 - [View Trip Details and Registration Information](#)
 - [Required St. Francis Travel Application \(To Be Printed\)](#)
- **Parent Information Session:** [Click here](#) to watch the recording.

Middle and Upper School Choirs to Perform at Christmas Concert on December 12

Save the date for a Christmas Choir Concert on Thursday, December 12, featuring Joyful Sounds and the Middle and Upper School Choirs. The concert will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. [Click here for details.](#)

Upcoming College Counseling Programs

Here are opportunities to learn more about the PSAT/NMSQT and college admissions testing:

- **“PSAT, Now What?” (Webinar):** Join Revolution Prep this Tuesday, December 3, to learn about your PSAT scores and create a personalized test prep plan. [Click here to register.](#)
- **Navigating College Admission Tests:** Join us this Wednesday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. at The Kinkaid School (Brown Auditorium) to learn about the latest SAT/ACT trends, updates, and strategies. [Please click here to register.](#) (Co-hosted by Kinkaid, Duchesne Academy, St. Francis Episcopal School, The Village School, Memorial High School, and Breakthrough)

With questions, please contact [Claudia Mejia](#), Director of College Counseling.

Honor Your Student With a Yearbook Ad

Parents of seniors, *The Howler* staff is excited to offer you the opportunity to place a special recognition ad for your student in the 2025 edition of our yearbook.

- Full-page ads are \$500, and half-page ads are \$250. You can create your own ad by clicking on [this link](#) and completing the steps. [This video tutorial](#) will help you create your ad.
- All ads must be completed by Friday, January 17, 2025, to appear in the book.
- If you have any questions, please contact [Steve Johnson](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 2

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, December 3

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

Wednesday, December 4

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, December 5

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, December 6

- *“B” Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Advanced Placement Exam Fees Due*
- *St. Nicholas Eucharist Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
- *Middle School and Upper School Dance Concert: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC*

Monday, December 9

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, December 10

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

Wednesday, December 11

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, December 12

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, December 13

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

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship and Family-Focused Events

- **Sunday Family Worship Service:** 9:00 a.m. in the church

- **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 and Donuts:** Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service), get a cup of coffee and enjoy a time of fellowship.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite II Traditional Service With Choral Music:** 11:00 a.m.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite I Service:** 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the St. Clare Chapel

Buy Christmas Cards to Benefit LOTS

This year's Confirmation Class will continue a long-time group tradition for their Christmas outreach project benefiting individuals at Lord of the Streets (LOTS). The class will be selling the cards before and after Sunday services on November 24, December 1, and December 15. You may also purchase the cards at any time in the church office or by contacting [Cindy Hutesson](#). The cards are \$5 each and make wonderful Christmas gifts for teachers, coworkers, family members, and friends. Support the Confirmation Class in this special outreach effort!

Dedicate Poinsettias 'In Memory' or 'In Thanksgiving'

Be a part of the St. Francis tradition of making a Christmas poinsettia dedication to be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship bulletins. Make your dedication "In Memory" of a loved one or "In Thanksgiving" for your many blessings. Dedication forms are located on the tables in the Narthex, or you may [submit the form and pay online here](#). Suggested donation is \$30.

Children's Christmas Party Is Saturday

This Saturday, December 7, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., bring your family to enjoy a visit from Santa Claus and his elves, face painting, balloon art, Christmas crafts, hot chocolate, a donut truck and ... REAL SNOW! Rain boots/water-friendly shoes are recommended. Come in through the main school entrance, and elves will guide you to the snow and fun! Look for your Evite and RSVP. For more information, email [Allison Devlin](#).

Sunday Morning Book Study Runs Through December 15

Fr. Price continues his Sunday morning book study through December 15. The class meets from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. in the Parish Office conference room.

Prayer: Our Deepest Longing by Ronald Rolheiser provides a clear exploration of the practice of varieties of prayer at the heart of Christian faith. The five short sections address elements of liturgical worship and personal prayer, as well as some of the struggles involved. Fr. Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest, is an internationally renowned speaker and spiritual writer. We have copies of *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing* on hand, which may be purchased for \$10 each.

12-Step Recovery Program at St. Francis

If you, a family member, or a friend have a problem with alcohol, help is available. Please come join one of the 12-step recovery programs being offered at St. Francis on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held weekly in Room CH207, upstairs in the Parish Hall building; and the Al-Anon Family Group meets weekly in Room CH211, also upstairs in the Parish Hall. All meeting rooms are ADA-accessible. Park in the north parking lot and come in through the Parish Hall doors. If you have questions, please [email Tim](#).

Outreach Ministries: Opportunities to Serve

For additional information about any of the following outreach opportunities, [visit the St. Francis Episcopal Church Outreach page](#) or contact the church's Director of Outreach [Heather Burkhart](#).

- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team for **baby wipes, tissues, size 6 diapers, dish soap, and spray cleaner**.
- **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.
- The **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and donations of non-perishable food.

Now on Spotify: Sermons From St. Francis

[Sermons From St. Francis](#) are now 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!

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 on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#) by clicking on "Prayer & Worship" at the top left of the website, then clicking on the "Prayer Requests" link in the dropdown menu.

Bible Studies at St. Francis

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Gospel of John
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine (Except on second Tuesday of each month, when group meets in St. Francis Church Parish Hall)
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Study: Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m.
 - **Study:** The Book of Genesis (Life of Joseph)
 - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](#)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m. (On break—will start again in January 2025)
 - **Study:** The Gospel of John
 - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
- Thursdays from 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Book Study:** Christian Character
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Location:** Via Zoom (Contact Louise for passcode)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Gospel of Mark
 - **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. Scroll down to the "Watch Our Live Stream" section. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.