

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of December 8

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

Each of us has received a gift: So use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's diverse grace. —1 Peter 4:10

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.

Calling All Future Wolves! Admissions Deadline Is December 15

Do you have additional children ready to apply to St. Francis? The admissions application deadline is Sunday, December 15. Students currently enrolled DO NOT need to reapply. They will receive a re-enrollment contract in February. Please reach out to the [Admissions Office](#) if you have questions or need additional information.

Dad's Club Is Back: Join Us December 17

Calling all dads! The Dad's Club is back and hosting a coffee/meeting on **Tuesday, December 17, at 7:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. Come join other St. Francis dads to learn about the plans ahead for the Dad's Club. Please [RSVP to Stedman Grigsby](#). For additional details, [click here](#).

Donate Baked Goods to Make Friday's Employee Appreciation Event Extra Sweet!

The St. Francis Parents Organization's Teacher and Staff Appreciation Christmas Party is this Friday, December 13, and we need your help! Please consider donating baked goods to make this event extra special. You can drop off your treats at both campuses

on December 13 between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Please sign up to bring treats via the links below:

- [Sign up to bring treats for Couper Campus](#)
- [Sign up to bring treats for Piney Point Campus](#)

This Is Us: Second Cultural Festival Is March 23

We are excited to start preparing for our second This Is Us Festival: A Celebration of Our Cultures, which will be held on Sunday, March 23, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please sign up by Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Last year's event was a success with over 30 countries participating, and we can't wait to see you all again this year as we celebrate the various cultures represented in our community. For more details, [click here](#).

Come Shop the Spirit Store During Regular Open Hours

Put some SFE spirit under the Christmas tree this year! Our new Spirit Store Cottage on Couper Campus is now open every first and third Friday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please contact [Jennifer Gerry](#) with any questions or if you would like to volunteer to sell Spirit Wear.

*Important Note: The Spirit Store Cottage will NOT be open on Friday, December 20, due to early dismissal that day.

O Come, All Ye Faithful, to Hear Our Choirs Sing!

The Joyful Sounds, Middle, and Upper School Christmas Choir Concert will take place this **Thursday, December 12, at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church** (11612 Memorial Dr.). Doors will open to the public at 6:15 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:30 p.m.

- The concert will also be live streamed on our school website, and you may [watch it here](#).
- If you are unable to make the performance, simply reach out to your child's music educator for a link to the recording afterward.

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you!

Now Delivering Letters to Santa: Deadline Is Tomorrow

To give Santa and his busy elves enough time to reply, please make sure your child's letter to Santa is in the red mailbox by tomorrow—Monday, December 9!

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

- [Primary School](#) (also a coloring page—Santa loves seeing pictures from the kids!)
- [Lower School](#)

In order to receive a response from Santa, the letter must include the following information:

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

Thank you for helping us spread some Christmas cheer!

Have You Heard the News?

We're having a party—a Sunday Funday Par-Tee! All community members—golfers and non-golfers—are invited to join us for an adult-only tee-rific time. Expect an unforgettable afternoon filled with a live DJ spinning the hits, a fun-filled photo booth, an open bar, tasty food stations, games, prizes, and good vibes. And don't forget to wear your best Caddyshack-inspired outfit for a chance to win Best Dressed. It's all about fun, friends, and community. Let's par-tee the day away—see you there!

- **Who:** All Parents
- **When:** Sunday, February 23, 2:06-5:05 p.m.
- **Attire:** Your Best Caddyshack Garb
- **Tickets and Sponsorships:** On sale Monday, January 13, 2025

Golf Tournament: Team Tickets and Sponsorships Are Available

Interested in playing in the golf tournament on Monday, February 24? Team tickets are still available [here](#). Sponsorships for the tournament are available [here](#).

Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

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

Monday, December 16

- *Regular Uniform for Primary I and II*
- *Primary I Christmas Parties:* 1:30 p.m.
- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17

- *Regular Uniform for Primary I and II*
- *No Chapel*
- *Primary II Pageants and Parties*
 - 9:00 a.m.—Suckow
 - 10:00 a.m.—Owens
 - 11:30 a.m.—Capasso
 - 12:30 p.m.—Wiener

Wednesday, December 18

- *Regular Uniform for Primary I and II*
- *Lessons and Carols Chapel:* Students only
- *Pre-Primary Parties:* 1:45 p.m.

Friday, December 20

- *Special Dress:* Students may wear holiday attire or Spirit Wear
- *Early Dismissal:* 11:00 a.m.

Lower School

Lower School Christmas Concert Series Continues This Week

Our students are excited to celebrate the holiday season with Christmas music performances this week:

- **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](#).

O Come, All Ye Faithful, to Hear Our Choirs Sing!

The Joyful Sounds, Middle, and Upper School Christmas Choir Concert will take place this **Thursday, December 12, at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church** (11612 Memorial Dr.). Doors will open to the public at 6:15 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:30 p.m.

- The concert will also be live streamed on our school website, and you may [watch it here](#).
- If you are unable to make the performance, simply reach out to your child's music educator for a link to the recording afterward.

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 9

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

Monday, December 16

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 8:20-8:50 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, December 17

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Kindergarten and First-Grade Christmas Parties: 12:00–2:15 p.m.; students only*
-

Wednesday, December 18

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Second- and Third-Grade Christmas Parties: 12:00–2:15 p.m.; students only*
-

Thursday, December 19

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *LS Lessons and Carols Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.; students only*
 - *Fourth-Grade Christmas Parties: 1:00–2:15 p.m.; students only*
-

Friday, December 20

- *Special Dress: Students may wear holiday or Spirit Wear; this is NOT a free-dress day*
- *Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.:* If you have children in both LS and MS, please consider picking up both at 12:00 p.m. with MS dismissal

Middle School

Cold-Weather Uniform Reminder

With cooler weather finally arriving, jackets and sweatshirts are needed most mornings. Please remember that only St. Francis sweatshirts are to be worn inside the building.

ERB Testing Is This 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.

Here are several important things to keep in mind:

- **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 will report directly to assigned testing rooms each day.
- All students are asked to eat a good breakfast, bring a healthy snack, and bring a book for independent reading.
- Laptops should be charged to at least 50 percent each night. Students are highly encouraged to bring a charger in case additional power is needed during testing.

To encourage a good night's sleep for all students, there will be no homework due or additional assessments on these days. Homework could be assigned once testing is completed on December 11.

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- The concert will also be live streamed on our school website, and you may **[watch it here](#)**.
- If you are unable to make the performance, simply reach out to your child's music educator for a link to the recording afterward.

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Deadlines Approaching for Summer Trips: Register for Washington, DC, 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 extended through Tuesday, December 31.**
 - **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 9

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Special Schedule:* Periods 1–3 meet after testing
 - ***ERB Testing: 7:30–10:45 a.m.***
 - *Chapel: 10:45–11:10 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, December 10

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Special Schedule:* Periods 4–6 meet after testing
 - ***ERB Testing: 7:30–11:30 a.m.***
-

Wednesday, December 11

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Special Schedule:* All classes meet for shortened periods
 - ***ERB Testing: 7:30–10:30 a.m.***
 - *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 Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Regular Schedule/“B” Clubs*

Monday, December 16

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- ***ERB Makeup Testing***

Tuesday, December 17

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *NJHS Generation One Christmas Party: 8:30–11:00 a.m.*

Wednesday, December 18

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *MS Lessons and Carols Rehearsal: 12:00 p.m.*

Thursday, December 19

- *“B” Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *MS Lessons and Carols Chapel: 9:40–10:25 a.m.*

Friday, December 20

- *Last Day of Semester 1*
- *“A” Day*
- *Christmas/Holiday Dress: Wear an ugly Christmas sweater, a holiday shirt, or festive dress. Alternately, wear normal Friday SFE Spirit Wear with uniform bottoms or jeans.*
- *Early Dismissal at 12:00 p.m.:* If you have children in both LS and MS, please consider picking both up at 12:00 p.m. with MS dismissal

Upper School

The Social Institute: 'Anxiety'

The recent movie *Inside Out 2* broke box-office records and introduced a relatable character, “Anxiety”—that feeling we all get when we are worried, nervous, or uneasy about something uncertain in the future. This past week, in preparation for the upcoming midterm exams and in support of our students in managing test anxiety, each advisory group explored the concept of anxiety and ways to keep anxiety in check and use it as a force for good. Please click on the link below for further information on the curriculum and for resources on how to continue the conversation at home.

- **All Grade Levels:** Understanding the Good and Bad Sides of “Anxiety,” Inside and Out

Registration Extended 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 has been extended to Tuesday, December 31, 2024.**
- **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.

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- The concert will also be live streamed on our school website, and you may [watch it here](#).
- If you are unable to make the performance, simply reach out to your child’s music educator for a link to the recording afterward.

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you!

Mark Your Calendar

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*
 - *Holiday Pajama Day:* Students may wear appropriate holiday-themed pajamas or Spirit Wear
 - *Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Monday, December 16

- *Final Exams*
- *SFE Spirit Wear:* Students should NOT wear hoodies, jackets, or baggy shirts while testing

Tuesday, December 17

- *Final Exams*
 - *SFE Spirit Wear*: Students should NOT wear hoodies, jackets, or baggy shirts while testing
-

Wednesday, December 18

- *Final Exams*
 - *SFE Spirit Wear*: Students should NOT wear hoodies, jackets, or baggy shirts while testing
-

Thursday, December 19

- *Final Exams*
 - *SFE Spirit Wear*: Students should NOT wear hoodies, jackets, or baggy shirts while testing
-

Friday, December 20

- *Final Exams*
 - *Special Christmas/Holiday Dress (Ugly Christmas Sweater, Holiday Shirt, Festive Attire)*: This is not a free-dress day. If a student chooses not to participate in holiday dress, they should wear normal Friday SFE Spirit Wear with uniform bottoms or jeans. Students should NOT wear hoodies, jackets, or baggy shirts while testing.
 - *End of Semester One*
-

Monday, December 23–Monday, January 6

- *Christmas Break*: No school
-

Tuesday, January 7

- *Classes Resume*
- *“A” Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Epiphany Eucharist Chapel: 10:00–10:45 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

SFEC to Hold Three Christmas Eve Services

St. Francis Episcopal Church will hold three Christmas Eve services on Tuesday, December 24:

- **2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.**—Family services with pageant
- **9:00 p.m.**—Traditional choral service

Music will begin 30 minutes prior to each service.

Buy Christmas Cards to Benefit LOTS

This year's Confirmation Class continues 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 services on Sunday, December 15. You may also purchase the cards at any time in the church office or by contacting [Cindy Hutson](#). 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.

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. (**Note that the groups will NOT meet on December 15.**) 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:** TBA
 - **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.