

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of December 15

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

Jesus had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. —Matthew 9:36

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.

Winter Sports Are Underway: Game Schedule Now Available

Be sure to check out all our awesome student-athletes playing winter sports!

- Middle School and Upper School schedules can be found [here](#).
- Need to get hyped? [Watch our new video!](#)

Next Booster Club General Meeting Is January 10

Please join us for the next Booster Club General Meeting on **Friday, January 10, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Student Life Center conference room on Couper Campus.** Come see what's happening with winter and spring sports and special events. If you can't make it to the meeting, we'll have a dial-in option, as well. See you then!

Save the Date: Winter Wolf Games Are January 17

Hey, Wolf Pack! Mark your calendar for the Winter Wolf Games on Friday, January 17. Come cheer on our Upper School soccer and basketball teams on the Couper Turf Field

and in Crum Gym. There will be swag, photo ops, Frito pies, popcorn, hot chocolate—and plenty of fun for all! See you there!

- **5:00–6:30 p.m.**—Varsity Girls Soccer vs. Homeschool Christian Youth Association
- **5:30–6:30 p.m.**—JV Blue Boys Basketball vs. First Baptist Academy
- **7:00– 8:00 p.m.**—Varsity Boys Soccer vs. Homeschool Christian Youth Association
- **7:00–8:30 p.m.**—Varsity Boys Basketball vs. First Baptist Academy

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](#).

Save the Date: Sunday Funday Par-Tee Is February 23

We're having a community-wide party at Lakeside Country Club to tee up Golf Fore SFE. Connect with your friends, make new ones, and celebrate the incredible sense of community that makes St. Francis so special.

- You can find all the information for our Sunday Funday Par-Tee [here](#).
- Interested in playing golf at the tournament on Monday, February 24? Team tickets are still available [here](#).

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.
- For more details, [click here](#).

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.

Primary School

Primary School Reminders

- We will not have our regular Chapel services this week. Instead, we will have Primary II Nativity Pageants on Tuesday, December 17, and a student-only Lessons and Carols service for Primary I and Primary II on Wednesday, December 18.
- Friday, December 20, is an early-dismissal day. Carpool will begin at 11:00 a.m., and we will not have Explore and Extend. All students are invited to wear holiday attire or Spirit Wear.
- Mark your calendars for a special pajama-themed Open Library on Monday, January 13, at 3:00 p.m. We hope you will join us for bedtime story fun!

Mark Your Calendar

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: Students only; no Chapel*
 - *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.
-

Monday, December 23–Monday, January 6

- *Christmas Break:* No school
-

Tuesday, January 7

- *Classes Resume*

Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

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*
-

Monday, December 23–Monday, January 6

- *Christmas Break: No school*
-

Tuesday, January 7

- *Classes Resume*

Middle School

ERB Makeup Testing Postponed Until January

Makeup ERB Testing will be held on Wednesday, January 15, and Thursday, January 16. Students who missed all testing days should expect to also test on Friday, January 17. Students and their families will receive an email with more information in the first week of January.

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. **Students should always wear a polo shirt underneath the sweatshirt.**

Girls are welcome to wear sweats or leggings underneath uniform skirts. These should be solid colors (without patterns) in gray, white, blue, or black.

Summer Trip to Europe: Register by December 31

Calling all rising ninth graders: The Europe trip is still accepting registrations—but the December 31 deadline is 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.

- **Where:** London, Paris, Italy, Lucerne, and more!
- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
- **Date:** June 2–13, 2025
- **Registration deadline extended through Tuesday, December 31**
- **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 16

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Regular Schedule*
 - *ERB Makeup Testing Postponed:* ERB makeup testing was previously announced for today. It has been postponed until January 15 and 16 to allow students time to finish Semester 1 work.
-

Tuesday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

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, festive dress, or normal Friday SFE Spirit Wear with uniform bottoms or jeans.*
 - *Noon Dismissal*
-

Monday, December 23–Monday, January 6

- *Christmas Break: No school*
-

Tuesday, January 7

- *Classes Resume*

Upper School

Athletic Eligibility Reminder

Per TAPPS requirements, we submit grades periodically to the conference. Our next grade check for eligibility will be based on grades for the Semester 1 Report Card. Those grades will be submitted to TAPPS within two weeks of our return to school in January.

Registration Extended for Summer 2025 Europe Trip

Registration is still open for our summer tour of England, France, Italy, and Switzerland—and we have a great group already assembled! 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.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 16

- *Final Exams*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, December 17

- *Final Exams*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, December 18

- *Final Exams*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, December 19

- *Final Exams*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

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.
 - *Noon Dismissal*
 - *End of Semester 1*
-

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
-

Wednesday, January 8

- *“B” Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, January 9

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, January 10

- *“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

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

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

St. Francis Episcopal Church will hold four Christmas services—three on Christmas Eve, and one on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (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.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE (WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25)

- **11:00 a.m.**

For more information, call the church office at 713.782.1270.

Last Chance to 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 after services today—Sunday, December 15. You may also purchase the cards at any time in the church office or by contacting [Cindy Huteson](#). 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.

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.