

News for the Week of January 12

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

God has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen and as designers. — Exodus 35:35

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.

Sunday Funday Par-Tee: Tickets Go on Sale Tomorrow

Join us for *our* COMMUNITY-WIDE celebration! This event is for golfers and non-golfers alike (adults only). Connect with your St. Francis friends, make new ones, and celebrate the incredible sense of community that makes SFE so special.

- You can find all the information for our Sunday Funday Par-Tee **here**.
- **Tickets go on sale tomorrow—Monday, January 13.** To purchase tickets, please **click here**.
- Interested in playing golf at the tournment on Monday, February 24? Team tickets are still available **here**, and **individual tickets are coming soon**!

Help Shape Our Future: Please Attend a Strategic Plan Parent Focus Group This Wednesday or Thursday

As a part of the strategic planning process, parents are invited to attend one of the two focus groups being held on campus. We strongly encourage you to attend to help us shape the future of St. Francis Episcopal School. Please confirm your attendance by **clicking here**.

Wednesday, January 15
5:30–6:30 p.m.
Couper Campus—Student Life Center (Black Box)

OR

Thursday, January 16
10:30–11:30 a.m.
Piney Point Campus—Fine Arts Center

Winter Wolf Games Are This Friday + Volunteers Needed

Don't miss the Winter Wolf Games this **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, ***new*** cold-weather Spirit items for purchase, 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

We need volunteers to help make the event a success! **Sign up here** to volunteer.

FoFA Meets This Friday: Join Us!

Please join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) this **Friday, January 17, at 9:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held in the second-floor conference room in the Student Life Center building on Couper Campus.

- 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.

This Week: Donate Your Gently Used Uniforms and Spirit Wear During Carpool

The St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Uniform Resale Committee will be accepting SFE uniform and Spirit Wear items at morning carpool drop-off locations each day this week.

- Simply put everything in a bag and hand it to a carpool volunteer through the window—without even getting out of your car! It's the easiest way to make a meaningful donation to the SFPO.

- Please make sure your donations are clean and in good, resalable condition.
- The new donations will be available for purchase at our **pop-up sale on Wednesday, January 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Come Shop *NEW* Winter Accessories During Regular Spirit Store Hours

Our new St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) 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.**

- We have some new winter accessories (SFE pom-pom beanies, bleacher blankets, and padded stadium seats) that you need to check out!
- Please contact **Jennifer Gerry** with any questions or if you would like to volunteer to sell Spirit Wear.

Nominations Now Open for SFPO Officers and Committee

It's time to start thinking about the 2025–26 St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Executive Committee. The SFPO supports the mission of St. Francis by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities for 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 whom you would like to nominate—please **email SFPO President Alison Plumhoff by Tuesday, January 21**.

This Is Us Cultural Festival: Sign Up to Participate

We are excited to be hosting our second annual This Is Us Cultural Festival on **Sunday, March 23, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m**. Please see information **here** and sign up to represent your country. We had over 30 countries represented last year and are looking forward to even more this year!

This Tuesday: Dads' Club Breakfast Meeting

DON'T MISS OUR UPDATES!

Are you interested in joining the SFE Dads' Club? **Click here** to sign up for our email distribution list!

UPCOMING MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

Please join the Dads' Club at our second informational get-together this **Tuesday, January 14, from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room** on Piney Point Campus. We'll have coffee and breakfast bites as we discuss how we can make an impact on and off campus this semester. Get to know other SFE dads and learn how

you can get involved! Please RSVP by emailing **Stedman Grigsby**—and encourage your friends to join.

Primary School

Pajama-Themed Open Library Tomorrow

To kick off Pajamarama week, you are invited to a special **pajama-themed Open Library tomorrow—Monday, January 13—at 3:00 p.m.** The event will include a pajama-themed book reading and activities. You and your child may also check out a book to take home!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 13

- *Pajama Ingathering Begins*
- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14

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

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Wednesday, January 15

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

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Friday, January 17

- *PS Pajamarama:* Students only; students may wear pajamas to school
- *Pajama Ingathering Ends*
- *Winter Wolf Games:* 5:00–8:30 p.m. on Couper Campus

Monday, January 20

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

Tuesday, January 21

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

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Wednesday, January 22

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

Lower School

Sign Up Now: Parent Lunches With Students Start Soon

We're thrilled to let you know that we will kick off our parent lunches with students soon! Please use the links below to sign up for lunch with your child:

- **Kindergarten Lunch Sign-up**
- **First-Grade Lunch Sign-up**
- **Second-Grade Lunch Sign-up**
- **Third-Grade Lunch Sign-up**
- **Fourth-Grade Lunch Sign-up**

GUIDELINES FOR LUNCH VISITORS

Due to space and safety concerns, lunch visitors are subject to important guidelines:

- All lunch visitors must follow established check-in/checkout procedures and will receive a name tag upon arrival, which must be worn at all times while on campus.
- Lunch visitors are asked to follow the dining procedures in our *Lower School Handbook*, as follows: "Parent/guardian lunches for students in kindergarten through grade 4 will be scheduled from October through April using the grade-level link available in the Parent Portal. (The link will also be sent in January.) Each family will be allotted three lunch dates within the school year. (Note: The lunch count is per family and not per child.) Please be aware that some dates may not be available due to previously scheduled events on campus. The school will limit the number of reservations per day to avoid congestion in the parking lot and within the school building."
- St. Francis uses Veracross for scheduling family lunch dates to ensure efficient organization of highly attended dates when limited space is available.
- Students are not allowed to invite their friends to eat with their parents and them.
- No outside food is allowed.

Family Code Workshop Is January 27

Join us for a **Family Code Workshop on Monday, January 27, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. Smart Families, an organization dedicated to teaching safe and healthy use of technology, will conduct a workshop for parents and students in grades 3–8. We will focus on creating a supportive environment to protect children from high-risk behaviors.

- During the evening, you'll develop your own "Family Code," reinforcing your values and positive, healthy ways to use technology.
- Dinner and refreshments will be provided.
- Please **click here to RSVP**.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 13

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Thursday, January 16

- *LS Epiphany Eucharist Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *ERB/CTP Scores Released for Grades 3 & 4*

Friday, January 17

- *ERB Parent Meeting via Zoom for Grade 3:* 9:15–9:45 a.m.; Zoom link will be sent by email this Wednesday, January 15
- *ERB Parent Meeting via Zoom for Grade 4:* 10:00–10:30 a.m.; Zoom link will be sent by email this Wednesday, January 15
- *Winter Wolf Games:* 5:00–8:30 p.m. on Couper Campus

Monday, January 20

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

Wednesday, January 22

- *Spring Enrichment Classes Begin*

Thursday, January 23

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Friday, January 24

- *LS Lunar New Year Event:* 2:00–2:45 p.m. in the FAC; students only

Middle School

ERB Makeup Testing Is This Week

ERB makeup testing will be held this Wednesday, January 15, and Thursday, January 16. Students who missed all testing days should expect to also test this Friday, January 17. More information was emailed last week to students who will be taking makeup tests, as well as to their parents.

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- During the evening, you'll develop your own “Family Code,” reinforcing your values and positive, healthy ways to use technology.
- Dinner and refreshments will be provided.
- Please **click here to RSVP**.

Uniform Reminders

The new year is a good time to check the fit of student uniforms and to ensure that all uniform expectations are being met.

- Girls’ skirts should be fingertip length.
- Boys are asked to wear belts when wearing shorts or pants with belt loops.

- All students should keep shirts tucked in throughout the school day.

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.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 13

- *"A" Day*
- ***Regular Uniform***
- *Regular Schedule*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:40–10:25 a.m.

Tuesday, January 14

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

Wednesday, January 15

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

Thursday, January 16

- *“B” Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Special Schedule*
- *ERB Makeup Testing*
- *MS Epiphany Eucharist Chapel:* 9:40–10:25 a.m.

Friday, January 17

- *“A” Day*
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Regular Schedule*
- *Pep Rally and Eighth Grade vs. Faculty Basketball Game:* 2:00–3:30 p.m.
- *Winter Wolf Games:* 5:00–8:30 p.m. on Couper Campus

Monday, January 20

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

Tuesday, January 21

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*

Wednesday, January 22

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

Thursday, January 23

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m.

Friday, January 24

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

Upper School

Important Schedule Changes for the Spring Semester

Because of some updates to the Upper School schedule for the spring semester, the A/B Day rotation schedule has been adjusted. **Click here** to view the new schedule.

In addition, please note the following:

- The date of Upper School Parent Conference Day, which was originally scheduled for Thursday, March 6, has been changed. Upper School Parent Conference Day is now scheduled for Thursday, March 27.
- Immersions and Explorations Week is now scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, through Friday, February 21.

Midterm Thanks

Thanks to all students who studied hard and completed their midterms. Things went smoothly!

Visual Arts Exhibition: Opening Reception Is Wednesday + Volunteers Needed Tomorrow

Please join us for our third annual Upper School Visual Arts Exhibition Opening Reception this Wednesday, January 15, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Student Life Center on Couper Campus. All are welcome! For more information, please email **Caroline Herrin**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to set up for this event tomorrow—Monday, January 13. If you can help, please **click here to sign up**.

Fine Arts and College Career Panel Is January 22

All SFE Upper School students and parents are welcome to join us at our Fine Arts College and Career Panel on Wednesday, January 22, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Life Center on Couper Campus. With questions, please email **Claudia Mejia** or **Kristina Revaz**.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 14

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

Wednesday, January 15

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

Thursday, January 16

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, January 17

- *“A” Day*
- *SFES Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Semester 1 Report Cards Published*
- *US Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Winter Wolf Games:* 5:00–8:30 p.m. on Couper Campus

Monday, January 20

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

Saturday, January 25

- *Upper School Winter Social:* 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym and on the fields

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Monday, January 27

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Tuesday, January 28

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

Wednesday, January 29

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Thursday, January 30

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, January 31

- *“B” Day*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *US 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

Women's Bible Study and Fellowship Returns This Wednesday

Women of all ages and life stages are invited to join us for Women's Bible Study and Fellowship every Wednesday through May, starting this Wednesday, January 15. Join us for a Bible study on the Gospel of John from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the St. Francis Church Parish Hall. For more information or to sign up, **email Allison Devlin**.

First Communion Classes Start February 2

Children in second grade and up are invited to participate in First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the Holy Eucharist.

- Beginning February 2, students will attend First Communion Classes on Sundays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. There will also be one Saturday class for families.
- Class dates are Sunday, February 2; Sunday, February 9; Sunday, February 23; Sunday, March 2; and Saturday, March 22 (family session at 10:00 a.m.). First Communion Sunday is on March 23 at 9:00 a.m.
- For more information or to sign up, **email Allison Devlin**.

Adult Confirmation Classes Continue Next Sunday

Father Bates is leading Adult Confirmation Classes for anyone wishing to be confirmed or received by Bishop Monterroso on Sunday, February 23.

- Classes began today and will continue on these Sundays: January 19, and February 2, 9, and 16.
- Classes begin at 10:15 a.m.; are held in the St. Francis Library (across from the nursery); and last 30 to 40 minutes. At least three sessions must be attended.
- For more information, please **email Sally Jo Flores**.

February 2: New Confirmation Class Begins

All eighth graders interested in being confirmed into The Episcopal Church are invited to attend the Confirmation Ice Cream Social at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 2, to fellowship and hear from this year's class about what the Confirmation year entails. Parents are also invited to attend and learn more from Father Bates. For more information, **email Cindy Huteson**.

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.
  - **Study:** TBA
  - **Location**: St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact**: **Allison Devlin**
- Thursdays from 9:00–10:00 a.m. (On break)
  - **Book Study:** TBA
  - **Contact:** **Louise Richman**
  - **Location:** Via Zoom (Contact Louise for passcode)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** *The Great Divorce* by C. S. Lewis
  - **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.