

News for the Week of January 26

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. —Acts 2:17

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.

Sign Up to Help With Primary School and Upper School Grandparents Days

If you're available to help register grandparents and grandfriends as they arrive for Primary School or Upper School Grandparents Day, please sign up via the links below. Thank you!

- **Sign up to help with Primary School Grandparents Day**
- **Sign up to help with Upper School Grandparents Day**

This Is Us Cultural Festival: Represent Your Country or Heritage

Will your country or heritage be represented? Please see the **current list** of countries and heritages that will be featured at our second This Is Us Cultural Festival on Sunday, March 23. There is still time to sign up, so if your country or heritage is not listed, please **complete this participation form**.

Make a Difference: Volunteer Opportunities for Parents

LEARN MORE AT THE VOLUNTEER COFFEE ON FEBRUARY 4
Please join us for our second **Volunteer Coffee and St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) General Meeting on Tuesday, February 4, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room** at Piney Point Campus. Come learn more about SFPO and SFE volunteer opportunities big and small. Committee leads will be there to introduce themselves, share what their teams do throughout the year, and answer any questions you might have about how to get involved. Stay to chat, or simply drop by. You'll also have the chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities for this spring and for the 2025–26 school year. We look forward to seeing you there!

VOLUNTEER FOR NEXT YEAR'S SFPO COMMITTEES
Every St. Francis parent is a member of the SFPO. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill SFPO committees for the 2025–26 school year. Please click the links below for more information and to be notified when volunteer opportunities come up that align with your interests. *(Submitting the form does not commit you to anything; it just helps us understand where you might want to get involved.)*

- **View descriptions of 2025–26 SFE volunteer positions.**
- **Sign up to volunteer.**

This Week: Volunteers Needed for Uniform Resale Pop-up
Thank you to everyone who donated clothes during our recent carpool collection drive! Now we need help to sort and hang the donations this Tuesday, January 28, and to help us sell them at the next day's Uniform Resale Pop-up.

- Please **click here** to volunteer. **As an added bonus, Uniform Resale volunteers get first dibs at the merchandise before the sale even opens!**
- The Uniform Resale Pop-up will be this **Wednesday, January 29, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.** in the Gay Foyer at Piney Point Campus.

Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 27

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, January 28

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

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Wednesday, January 29

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

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Monday, February 3

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, February 4

- *No Chapel Today*

Wednesday, February 5

- *No Chapel Today*

Thursday, February 6

- *Grandparents Day for Primary II:* 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Friday, February 7

- *Grandparents Day for Primary I:* 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- *Grandparents Day for Pre-Primary:* 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 27

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Smart Families Family Code Parent and Student Workshop for Grades 3–8:* 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room

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Wednesday, January 29

- *Student Holiday*
- *Parent Teacher Conferences:* 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 30

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Monday, February 3

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Thursday, February 6

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Middle School

Carpool Reminder

Please do not arrive for afternoon pickup prior to 3:30 p.m. Cars in the Lower School carline will be directed to circle the building and rejoin the carline. Thank you for helping afternoon pickup run more smoothly and efficiently.

Community-Service Opportunity on March 1: Books Between Kids

Books Between Kids (BBK) is a nonprofit organization serving Houston's at-risk children by providing them with books to build their own home libraries. Using donated books, the organization allows students to shop “book-fair style” for books to add to their home libraries at no cost to the family.

A St. Francis volunteer shift has been reserved for up to 14 volunteers on Saturday, March 1, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

- Please use **this registration link** to reserve a spot. This registration page also contains directions to the BBK warehouse and information about what to expect during a volunteer shift.
- This link will close on Saturday, February 15, and any unfilled spots will be filled by other volunteers. The BBK warehouse cannot accommodate unregistered or "walk-up" volunteers.
- Volunteers who visit the BBK warehouse are welcome to bring donations of new and gently used children's books when they volunteer. The organization will happily acknowledge donations with a tax receipt and/or service hours.

Canstruction: Can Collection Starts Tomorrow

We are pleased to announce that Canstruction, the annual Middle School Ingathering, will be returning to St. Francis on Wednesday, February 19. We will begin collecting canned goods during Advisory starting tomorrow—Monday, January 27.

- Please make sure that all cans have a label, are not expired, and are not dented.
- Items will be used to build structures during Canstruction, and then will be donated to a local food bank.
- Last year, we collected just over 3,800 cans. Let’s see if we can top that this year!

Science Fair Is Tuesday

Students will be displaying their science fair–experiment results in the Fine Arts Center this Tuesday, January 28. Displays will remain in place for Parent/Teacher/Student Conference Day, which occurs on the following day—Wednesday, January 29. Families, we hope you will stop by and view the remarkable displays before or after your conference.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences Are Wednesday

Please sign up for your advisory conference time this Wednesday, January 29, using the button on your Veracross home page. Students should plan to join their parents for these meetings with advisors.

Spring Sports Start February 3

Spring sports will begin on Monday, February 3.

- All students in grades 6–8 may try any sport on February 3 and Tuesday, February 4.
- On Wednesday, February 5, students must finalize their athletic choice and remain with their chosen sport for the duration of the spring season.
- To allow for adequate coaching coverage for all teams and classes, no changes to other sports or to Middle School PE will be granted after this date.

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 27

- *"B" Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Regular Schedule*
- *Canstruction Can Collection Begins:* Start bringing canned goods to Advisory today for Canstruction on Wednesday, February 19
- *Middle School Chapel:* 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
- *Smart Families Family Code Parent and Student Workshop for Grades 3–8:* 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room

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Tuesday, January 28

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *STEAM and Science Fair*

Wednesday, January 29

- *Parent/Teacher/Student Conference Day:* **Students are expected to attend with their parent(s)**

Thursday, January 30

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, January 31

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

- *Regular Schedule*

Monday, February 3

- *"B" Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Regular Schedule*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 6

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, February 7

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

Upper School

Freshmen Parent Meeting Is February 19: 'College Road Map'

Parents of freshmen are invited to join us on Wednesday, February 19, at 8:00 a.m. for "Coffee Talk: College Road Map." We will explore college-admissions factors and trends, with a focus on understanding how course grades, GPA, and curriculum all lay an important foundation for college and for future success.

Sophomore Parent Meeting Is February 20: 'All About College'

Parents of sophomores, please join us on Thursday, February 20, at 8:00 a.m. for "Coffee Talk: All About College." We will discuss current college-admissions trends, ACT/SAT testing, and precollege summer programs, and answer questions from parents. More details, including the meeting's location, will be shared later this month.

Mark Your Calendar

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*
- *Tenth-Grade College Admissions Case Study:* See information above

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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

Monday, February 3

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Montgomery Women’s Center Presentation:* 11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in Crum Gym

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Tuesday, February 4

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

Wednesday, February 5

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Thursday, February 6

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Grandparents Day for Grades 9 and 12 Only:* 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Friday, February 7

- *“A” 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

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**.

February 2: New Eighth-Grade 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 Wismer. For more information, **email Cindy Huteson**.

Adult Confirmation Classes Continue February 2

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

- The second class was held today, and classes will continue on these Sundays: 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**.

Scout Sunday Is February 9

On Sunday, February 9, we will recognize our St. Francis Scouts at the 9:00 a.m. service. St. Francis hosts Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts in our facilities throughout the school year. Celebrate Scouting!

March 2: Choral Evensong in Honor of Rick Keith

Come enjoy a beautiful Choral Evensong in honor of Rick Keith on Sunday, March 2, at 5:00 p.m., in the church. A wine and cheese reception will follow in the Parish Hall. The Choral Evensong will be led by Eric Murillo and our Middle School students. The Evensong will serve as our 5:00 p.m. worship on March 2, and no Eucharist will be held in the chapel that evening.

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. For more information, please **email Tim**.
- The Al-Anon Family Group meets weekly in Room CH211, 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.

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:** Gospel of John: Chapter 13
  - **Location**: St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact**: **Allison Devlin**

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.