

News for the Week of February 16

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to advice. —Proverbs 12:15

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.

Buy Tickets Now: *High School Musical* Is This Week

Don't miss the Upper School's performances of Disney's family-friendly *High School Musical* this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (February 20–22). Enjoy the upbeat numbers while watching The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians, and Skater Dudes navigate change as Troy and Gabriella find a way to help everyone shine! All performances begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on Piney Point Campus. Seating is limited and tickets are going *FAST*—click here to **buy tickets now**, before they sell out!

Stop by the Spirit Store This Friday

The St. Francis Parents Organization Spirit Store Cottage on Couper Campus will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. this Friday, February 21, as well as on Friday, March 7.

Join Us Sunday: St. Francis Is All About Community!

Join us for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and connection at our community event this Sunday, February 23—the Sunday Funday Par-Tee!

- Games • Prizes • Friends
- $150 per person
- **Click here to buy tickets now.**

Don’t miss out—let’s celebrate together!

FOFA Volunteer Opportunity: Art Changeout on February 26

Come join Friends of Fine Arts at the Piney Point Art Changeout on Wednesday, February 26. **Sign up here** to help display all the beautiful, fun art that our Middle and Lower School students have been working so hard at creating.

Primary School

Loris Malaguzzi Open Library Is February 24

In celebration of Loris Malaguzzi’s birthday, please join us for Open Library at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, February 24. Loris Malaguzzi is known as the father of the Reggio Emilia philosophy. Join all three St. Francis librarians—Ms. Bush, Ms. Stubbs, and Ms. Masini—for storytelling fun and an interactive book reading. You and your child may also check out a book to take home. See you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 17

- *Presidents' Day Holiday:* No school

Tuesday, February 18

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

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Wednesday, February 19

- *Reggio Parent Group Coffee Chat—Reggio at Home:* 8:30 a.m. in the Primary School Library
- *PS Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend

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Friday, February 21

- *Darla McNay Rodeo Day:* Student-only event; students may dress in Western wear (no guns or spurs, please)

Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

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

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Wednesday, February 26

- *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Husain/Greenwood):* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents with students in these classes are invited to attend

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Friday, February 28

- *Go Texan Day:* Children may dress in Western attire (no guns or spurs, please) or Spirit Wear

Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 17

- *Presidents' Day Holiday:* No school

Wednesday, February 19

- *Second-Grade Field Trip to Museum of Fine Arts, Houston:* 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 20

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

Friday, February 21

- *LS Trimester 2 Ends*

Monday, February 24

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *LS Trimester 3 Begins*

Thursday, February 27

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Third-Grade Field Trip to The Menil Collection:* 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Friday, February 28

- *Go Texan Day*
  - Students may dress in Western attire or Spirit Wear (no guns, no spurs, school length skirts and shorts only
  - If wearing boots, please bring tennis shoes for PE/recess
- *Joyful Sounds Choir Field Trip to Primary School:* 9:00–10:30 a.m.
- *LS Trimester 2 Report Cards*

Middle School

Eighth Grade White Shirt Photo on February 21

On Friday, February 21, **all eighth-grade students** will participate in the filming of a portion of their Eighth-Grade Video, as well as take a class photograph. We ask that you make every effort to have your students at school by 7:45 a.m. Students are asked to wear the following clothing:

- Boys: White button-down shirt, tucked in with a belt
- Girls: White blouse or nice white top (school-appropriate—no tank tops)
- All Students: Blue jeans—no holes or rips
- Students may wear any school-appropriate shoes for this day. Boots are absolutely OK!

Special Dress on February 28: Go Texan Day

On Friday, February 28, students may wear Western attire OR St. Francis Spirit Wear. For students choosing Western attire, please follow the dress code expectations:

- No blood or weapons (including spurs)
- No immodest dress
- No representations of cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs
- No tank tops, spaghetti straps, or basketball jerseys, except over a T-shirt

The same rules for the length of shorts and skirts apply to costumes as to regular uniforms or casual dress days. Leggings are permitted with long T-shirts.

The Big Questions: Junior High Retreat Is April 25–27

Students in grades 6–8 are invited to register for The Big Questions: Jr. High Retreat, a Formation Project of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, on Friday, April 25–Sunday, April 27. Participants will enjoy a weekend of fun, games, and hanging out with friends, old and new, while they discover what it means to find a community where they can be truly accepted for who they are. **Click here for additional details and to register now!**

Canstruction Build Is This Wednesday

Students will continue collecting canned goods for Canstruction through this Tuesday, February 18. Canstruction, the annual Middle School Ingathering, will be returning to St. Francis this Wednesday, February 19.

- 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.
- This year's theme for the building event is "What We Love About St. Francis."
- Last year, we collected just over 3,800 cans. Let's see if we can top that this year!
- A special thank-you to members of the Dad's Club for assisting with the delivery of the canned goods to Fair Haven Food Pantry.

Parent Presentation on February 25: 'Protecting Children From Online Solicitation'

On Tuesday, February 25, at 8:30 a.m., Crime Stoppers of Houston will present "Protecting Children From Online Solicitation."

- This session will reveal popular platforms used for exploitation, common predator tactics, and critical warning signs for parents.
- Parents will learn actionable steps to create a safer online environment and protect their children from potential threats.
- Please register for this event via **this form**.

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, February 17

- *Presidents' Day Holiday:* No school

Tuesday, February 18

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

Wednesday, February 19

- *"B" Day With Special Schedule*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Canstruction Build:* 9:40–10:25 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center

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Thursday, February 20

- *"A" Day With Special Schedule*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *MS Eucharist:* 9:40–10:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, February 21

- *"B" Day With Special Schedule*
- *MS Preview of US Musical:* 1:30–2:30 p.m.
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms

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Monday, February 24

- *"A" 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 25

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *Crime Stoppers of Houston Presents "Protecting Children From Online Solicitation":* 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 26

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *Fifth-Grade Crime Stoppers Conversation (Students Only):* 9:50–10:25 a.m.

Thursday, February 27

- *"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, February 28

- *Go Texan Day*
- *"A" Day*
- *Eighth-Grade White Shirt Photo Day*
- *Regular Schedule:* No clubs for eighth grade

Upper School

Tuesday: Sophomores Take Practice ACT
Our sophomore students will take the Practice ACT exam this Tuesday, February 18, at 8:00 a.m. in the Student Life Center. The mock exam is paper-based, so no laptop is needed—only pencils and a calculator, plus a snack and water for breaks. After the Practice ACT, students will have lunch and proceed to their afternoon Immersions and Explorations session.

Wednesday: Freshmen Parent Coffee Talk
Freshmen parents are invited to join Director of College Counseling **Claudia Mejia** this Wednesday, February 19, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in Black Box Theater for a discussion regarding college admissions trends, as well as an overview of the freshmen's Immersions and Explorations college counseling program. Questions are encouraged and may be submitted in advance **here**. *Notes from our meeting will be shared with families who are unable to attend.*

Thursday: Sophomore Parent Coffee Talk

Sophomore parents are invited to join Director of College Counseling **Claudia Mejia** this Thursday, February 20, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. for a discussion regarding college admission trends, current college counseling activities, and upcoming events, as well as the latest ACT updates with Erik Ostegren from Revolution Prep. Questions are encouraged and may be submitted in advance **here**. *Notes from our meeting will be shared with families who are unable to attend.*

Fine Arts College and Career Panel Rescheduled for March 4

The Fine Arts College and Career Panel (canceled on January 22 due to inclement weather) has been rescheduled for March 4. Come join us to learn about fine arts college and career opportunities from a panel featuring representatives from University of Oklahoma, Savannah College of Art Design, University of North Texas, Samford University, University of Texas, and Marist College.

- **When:** Tuesday, March 4, 6:30–8:00 P.M.
- **Where:** Student Life Center on Couper Campus
- **Who:** All Upper School Students and Families
- **Click here to register.** (Please register even if you already registered for the previous date.)
- If you have any questions, feel free to email **Kristina Revaz** or **Claudia Mejia**.

Parent Presentation on February 25: 'Protecting Children From Online Solicitation'

On Tuesday, February 25, at 8:30 a.m., Crime Stoppers of Houston will present "Protecting Children From Online Solicitation."

- This session will reveal popular platforms used for exploitation, common predator tactics, and critical warning signs for parents.
- Parents will learn actionable steps to create a safer online environment and protect their children from potential threats.
- Please register for this event via **this form**.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 17

- *Presidents' Day Holiday:* No school

Tuesday, February 18–Friday, February 21

- *Immersions and Explorations Week*
- *No Chapel or Eucharist This Week*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms

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Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Crime Stoppers of Houston Presents "Protecting Children From Online Solicitation":* 8:30 a.m.
- *US Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, February 26

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

Thursday, February 27

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

Friday, February 28

- *"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

Ash Wednesday Services Are March 5

Begin your Lenten journey that leads to the cross and the joy of the resurrection with the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The first day of Lent is a special day of Holy Obligation. Services will be held at 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

Join Fr. Price in February for Sunday Morning Book Study

Join Fr. David Price on Sunday mornings in February for a book study exploring elements from Mel Robbin's bestseller *The "Let Them" Theory*. The study meets from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. in the Office Conference Room, CH-115.

- Is this theory rooted in common sense, in Stoicism and other philosophies, in early Christian thought, or in Twelve-Step practice? The answer is: all of the above. Wisdom from many traditions are distilled in a fresh way for our modern experience.
- Explore this tool to avoid misdirecting thoughts, draining energy, and wasting time on things outside your control. Stick to things worth your efforts. Discover a helpful, generous, and efficient way. Leave the matters of others to them: simply "let them."
- For more information, **email Fr. Price**.

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 Joanie McLeod**.
- 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.