WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of March 2

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return. —Genesis 3:19

A Message From Our Chaplains on Lent: Journey to the Empty Tomb

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent in the church. Growing up, I always associated Lent with fish Fridays and confronting our sinful nature as individuals. The main question that seems to have dominated the season then was, “What are you going to give up for Lent?” The notion of giving something up in response to our sinfulness seemed so punitive in my mind. As I grew in age and in my faith, I began to understand the season through a more restorative lens.

Lent, though it requires that we reckon with our individual and collective shortcomings, is less about pointing out the ways we succumb to temptations than it is about reminding us of the antidote that we have to combat them. After Jesus’s baptism in the gospel of Luke, he was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for 40 days. When he was exhausted and famished, the devil appealed to his humanity by targeting the things that tempt humans most: self-reliance and self-sustainability, power over others and obtaining our own desires, and putting our own will over and above God’s will.

Lent is a sobering time of reflection, yes, but also a time to remember that we are given the antidote: the incarnate Word of God. Jesus demonstrates how to use that antidote: by steeping ourselves in the Word of God and in prayer.

Lent points us to the way in which God defeats all the tiny deaths that assault our spirit and body in this life, so that we can revel in the gift of everlasting life. Lent points us to salvation and the ultimate hope we have in Christ, and shines a light on the power of

God that rolls away the stones that entomb us, turning graves into gardens.

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.

The Wolves Are State Champs! Order Your Shirt This Week!

Congratulations to our varsity basketball team on their back-to-back state championships! They won the final on Saturday versus Lubbock Christian 55-36. **Championship T-shirts will be available to order tomorrow. Be on the lookout for an email with the details.**

Booster Club General Meeting Is Wednesday

The next **Booster Club general meeting** is this **Wednesday, March 5,** at 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on Piney Point Campus. We have lots going on this spring, so please join us to find out what's happening in Middle School and Upper School athletics and how to get involved. See you there!

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, March 7**.

This is Us Cultural Festival T-shirts for Sale

Get ready to travel the world without ever leaving campus. The **This Is Us Cultural Festival** is right around the corner, on **Sunday, March 23,** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Couper Campus. You won't want to miss this vibrant celebration of our community!

With over 30 countries represented, there will be something for everyone—delicious food, interactive booths, performances, and more. Plus, our student-designed festival T-shirts will be available for purchase soon. Stay tuned this week for all the details.

Come celebrate what makes St. Francis so special—our community, our traditions, and our one-of-a-kind Wolf spirit!

March 30: An Opportunity to Be People for Others

Sunday, March 30, is Outreach Sunday at St. Francis Episcopal Church. Come join us for worship at 9:00 a.m., then gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall to make sandwiches and snack bags for **Lord of the Streets (LOTS)**. All the food we make will

be taken downtown to LOTS that morning and distributed to the unhoused in our city.

Save the Date: Pack the Park Returns April 4

Hey, Wolf Pack! Save the date for **Pack the Park** on **Friday, April 4,** at 6:00 p.m. at the Houston Christian University baseball field. We'll cheer on our varsity baseball team as they play First Baptist Pasadena. Before the game, we'll celebrate our outstanding baseball, tennis, and golf seniors. There will be food, sweet treats, and good ole baseball fun. Mark your calendars, and bring the whole family. **Click here** for all the details. We can't wait to see you there!

Help Us Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Woolrich Awards!

Join us in commemorating "20 Years of Inspired Teaching" at the **20th Anniversary Woolrich Luncheon on Friday, April 4**. This special event celebrates the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty, which has enriched the St. Francis Episcopal School community by empowering our teachers with transformative learning experiences.

Tickets will be on sale soon—stay tuned for more details!

Announcing the 2025–26 Art à la Carte Managing Board

We are pleased to announce the 2025–26 Art à la Carte (AALC) Managing Board. Congratulations to the following AALC docents who were nominated, have accepted their positions, and were approved by the Head of School. We look forward to their service!

- **Chair:** Reid Nelson
- **Vice-Chair:** Amanda Ollison
- **Chair of Training:** Lynsey Ward
- **Co-Chair of Training:** Shäna Johnson
- **Chair of Finance:** Miranda Tadlock
- **Chair of Technology:** Jordan Ephraim
- **Chair of Program Resources:** Katherine Dudum
- **Chair of Lower School Field Trips:** Jennifer Altman
- **Chair of Middle School Field Trips:** Camille Stuckey

Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

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

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Wednesday, March 5

- *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Ferguson, Richardson, and Scriber):* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents with students in these classes are invited to attend
- *Primary II Field Trip (Suckow and Owens)*

Thursday, March 6

- *Primary II Field Trip (Capasso and Wiener)*

Monday, March 10–Friday, March 14

- *Spring Break:* No school

Lower School

Rising Fifth Graders: Advanced Academic Placement Testing Is April 2
As we begin creating students' schedules for 2025–26, we wanted to remind you that your rising fifth grader (current fourth grader) has the option to apply for Advanced Academic courses next school year.

- The advanced courses will be offered for grades 5–8 in both math and English.
- **Click here to register** by the deadline of Friday, March 28.
- Students who choose to apply for Advanced Academic courses will take a placement test on Wednesday, April 2, which is a Late-Start Day. Those students should arrive at the regular school start time to complete their testing before classes begin at 10:00 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 3

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Tuesday, March 4

- *Parent Meet and Greet With Marsha Palmer:* 10:30–11:30 a.m. For details, **click here**.

Wednesday, March 5

- *LS Ash Wednesday Chapel (Ashes Only/No Eucharist):* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Parent Meet and Greet With Marsha Palmer:* 10:30–11:30 a.m. For details, **click here**.

Thursday, March 6

- *Fourth-Grade Family Heritage Showcase Day:* In the Fine Arts Center
  - **Hardee/Noland:** 10:00–10:45 a.m.
  - **Rosa/Rossy:** 1:30–2:15 p.m.

Monday, March 10–Friday, March 14

- *Spring Break:* No school

Middle School

Middle School Invited to 'Paint the Psalms' During the Season of Lent

As we quickly approach Ash Wednesday, our Middle School chaplain would like to offer ways in which all students, faculty, and staff of the Middle School can make this a holy time in their own lives.

- It is common for many to think of things to abstain from in this season. This year, you are also invited to discover ways to make more time to commune with God by adding a creative spiritual practice.
- Inspired by another local Episcopal church's **Sacred Space for Painting**, one of the religion classrooms will be transformed into a sacred space for creativity with the divine as we "Paint the Psalms."
- From Ash Wednesday (March 5) through Easter Sunday (April 20), this space will be available in the mornings from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m., during lunch and recess, and from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Digital Wellness Update

Crime Stoppers of Houston presented to students and parents this week about online dangers like fake profiles, solicitation tactics, and AI-enabled threats, along with practical strategies for handling inappropriate content. There will be follow-up activities in advisory to give students a chance to discuss further. Please reach out to **Steve Johnson** if you have questions about what was discussed or would like a copy of the information presented.

Advanced Academic Placement Testing Is April 2

As we begin creating students' schedules for 2025–26, we wanted to remind you that your child has the option to apply for Advanced Academic courses next school year.

- The advanced courses will be offered for grades 5–8 in both math and English.
- **Click here to register** by the deadline of Friday, March 28.
- Students who choose to apply for Advanced Academic courses will take a placement test on Wednesday, April 2, which is a Late-Start Day. Those students should arrive at the regular school start time to complete their testing before classes begin at 10:00 a.m.

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!**

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

Sunday, March 2

- *Evensong Service Led by MS Choir:* 5:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary; in honor of Rick Keith

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Monday, March 3

- *"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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Tuesday, March 4

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

Wednesday, March 5

- *"B" Day (Special Schedule)*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Ash Wednesday Chapel:* **9:40–10:25 a.m.**

Thursday, March 6

- *"A" Day With Clubs*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *No Chapel **("B" Day Clubs Instead)***

Friday, March 7

- *"B" Day*
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms
- *MS History Day*
- ***Fifth-Grade Only**:* Early dismissal at 12:45 p.m.

Monday, March 10–Friday, March 14

- *Spring Break:* No school

Monday, March 17

- *"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, March 18

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

Wednesday, March 19

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

- *Regular Schedule*

Thursday, March 20

- *"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, March 21

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Seventh-Grade Art à la Carte Field Trip*

Upper School

March 20: Juniors Will Take the SAT

St. Francis juniors (only) will take the SAT on Thursday, March 20, during the school day. This will ensure an official SAT is completed in the spring. Director of College Counseling Claudia Mejia will have registered students for the exam through College Board.

Save the Date: Upper School Athletic Awards Banquet Is May 13

Parents and student-athletes, please save the date for the first Athletic Awards Banquet on Tuesday, May 13, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a seated, special event with dinner, celebrating all Upper School teams and athletes throughout the year. A link to RSVP will be sent after spring break. Stay tuned!

Coming Soon: Course-Selection Information for 2025–26

In early March, you will receive information from your student(s) about course selection for the 2025–26 school year.

HOW WE'RE PREPARING

Here's how we're getting ready:

- Teachers are currently preparing course recommendations.
- Director of College Counseling Claudia Mejia has been meeting with current tenth and eleventh graders to develop individual course recommendations, and she recently completed an extensive academic planning workshop with our ninth-grade students.
- Additionally, all advisors received training during our recent Professional Development Day to support them in effectively guiding students through the course-selection process.

MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Starting in March, advisors will meet individually with students to discuss course options, using teacher and college-counseling recommendations to align with student interests and abilities. Students will then bring home a course-selection sheet for parents to review and bring to spring conferences on March 27 for further discussion.

NO ACTION NEEDED YET

For now, no action is needed, as we are putting the finishing touches on our work. We simply wanted to alert you that this exciting time of year is about to begin! If you have any questions, please **contact Dr. Jared Staller**, academic dean.

National Honor Society: Informational Meeting Tomorrow

In March, students will be invited to apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Qualified students have at least sophomore status, have spent two or more semesters at St. Francis, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above.

- **Informational Meeting Tomorrow:** All eligible students are invited to attend an informational meeting during tutorials tomorrow—Monday, March 3—in SLC 114. For any questions about the selection process, **email Lorien Cuneo**, chapter advisor.
- **Applications Reviewed After Spring Break:** Following Spring Break, students who are interested in applying for membership will turn in their completed forms, which will be reviewed by the Faculty Council. Our five-member Faculty Council will examine each application to determine whether the student meets the standards of the National Honor Society: outstanding community service, leadership, and character (exemplary disciplinary record). We will then communicate to our students and their families whether they have been accepted into our chapter.
- **Recognition Ceremony in May:** All inductees will be officially recognized at a ceremony in May.

This Tuesday: Fine Arts College and Career Panel

All St. Francis Upper School students and parents, join us this Tuesday, March 4, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Couper Campus to learn about visual and performing arts college and career opportunities from a panel featuring representatives from several

colleges. **Please register here.**

March 19: Learn to Navigate College-Admissions Testing

Join us for a College Planning Case Study on Wednesday, March 19, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Couper Campus. Ben Neely, chief impact and research officer with Revolution Prep, will reframe the conversation around testing timelines, list-building strategies, application workloads, and student well-being. **Click here to register.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 3

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

Tuesday, March 4

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *No Chapel Today:* Instead, Chapel will be held on March 5 (Ash Wednesday)
- *Fine Arts College and Career Panel:* 6:30–8:00 p.m. on Couper Campus; for students and families; see details above

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Wednesday, March 5

- *"A" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Ash Wednesday Chapel (Ashes Only/No Eucharist):* 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Crum Gym

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Thursday, March 6

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

Friday, March 7

- *"A" Day*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Semester Midpoint*
- *US Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym

Monday, March 10–Friday, March 14

- *Spring Break:* No school

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

Join Fr. Price on Wednesdays During Lent

Wednesdays during Lent, Fr. David Price will lead the series The Passion of Christ—New Testament Study, following Jesus in the final week of his earthly ministry. Come at 6:00 p.m. for Holy Eucharist, then stay for dinner prepared by Chef Alfredo ($15/person), followed by this year's Lenten program.

This Evening: Choral Evensong in Honor of Rick Keith

Come enjoy a beautiful Choral Evensong in honor of Rick Keith tonight—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.

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.

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 Acts of the Apostles
  - **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
  - **Location**: St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact**: **Allison Devlin**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** The Book of James
  - **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.