WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of March 16

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

We glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character; and character produces hope. —Romans 5:3–4

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.

FoFA News: Join Us Friday for Our Next Meeting

Please join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) this Friday, March 21, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room at 9000 Westheimer Road.

- 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 is Us Cultural Festival: Order T-shirts by Tomorrow at Noon

This is your last chance to order *This Is Us* Cultural Festival T-shirts in time for the festival. **Order your festival T-shirts** by tomorrow—Monday, March 17—at noon, then join us at the *This Is Us* Cultural Festival this Sunday, March 23, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Couper Campus.

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.

Pack the Park Is Back on April 4

Mark your calendars for **Pack the Park** on **Friday, April 4,** at Houston Christian University (formerly Houston Baptist University) as our Varsity baseball team takes on First Baptist Pasadena. Before the game, we'll celebrate our senior athletes from baseball, golf, tennis, and track.

- **5:00 p.m.:** Gates open
- **5:30 p.m.:** Senior recognition for baseball, golf, tennis, and track
- **6:00 p.m.:** First pitch

Enjoy food, sweet treats, and classic ballpark fun, plus special surprises throughout the evening for our Primary and Lower School fans. Don't miss this night of Wolf Pack spirit—bring the whole family, and let's PACK THE PARK!

Click here for details.

Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty Annual Luncheon: Celebrating 20 Years

Join us Friday, April 4, as we celebrate 20 years of the Woolrich Fund—planting small seeds of inspired teaching that continue to grow and transform lives at St. Francis.

- This special luncheon honors the legacy of empowering teachers to dream big, creating lasting programs that help every student flourish.
- **Click here to purchase your tickets today**, and be part of this beautiful tradition where visionary ideas take root and inspire generations of learners.

Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 17

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, March 18

- *PS Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II and Pre-Primary (Griffith, Oteiza, and Polk) parents are invited to attend

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Wednesday, March 19

- *PS Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and Pre-Primary (Keyes and Labarthe) parents are invited to attend

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Monday, March 24

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, March 25

- *PS Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II and Pre-Primary (Griffith, Oteiza, and Polk) parents are invited to attend

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Wednesday, March 26

- *PS Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and Pre-Primary (Keyes and Labarthe) parents are invited to attend
- *Primary II Fathers and Friends Picnic:* 11:00 a.m.

Lower School

Fourth-Grade Parent Meeting: Step Up to Fifth Grade Is March 20

This Thursday, March 20, parents of fourth graders are invited to learn more about the St. Francis Middle School at Step Up to Fifth Grade. Join us from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room for a preview of Middle School that will help you prepare for this exciting next step in your child's life.

Rising Fifth Graders: Advanced Academic Placement Testing Is April 2

As a reminder, 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 17

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Thursday, March 20

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Step Up to Fifth Grade (Fourth-Grade Parent Meeting):* 9:00–11:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room
- *Fourth-Grade Art á la Carte Field Trip:* 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.; walking tour of Rice University

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Monday, March 24

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Thursday, March 27

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Second-Grade Biome Bonanza:* 10:15–11:00 a.m. and 12:45–1:30 p.m.; in classrooms

Middle School

Dress Code for Seventh-Grade Art á la Carte Field Trip on March 21

Please read below for further clarification on the dress code for our upcoming seventh-grade Art á la Carte field trip to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple in Stafford this Friday, March 21. The temple is a house of worship and has very specific dress-code requirements; as guests, we will abide by their guidelines.

We are asking students to wear modified Spirit Wear on this day:

- **Boys and Girls:** Short-sleeve or long-sleeve St. Francis Spirit Wear shirt or uniform shirt. Shoulders and upper arms must be completely covered.
- **Boys and Girls:** Long pants (any color; NOT athletic) or jeans (any color) WITHOUT major rips/holes. (Shorts are NOT permitted inside the temple.)
- **Girls:** Leggings may be worn ONLY under a St. Francis uniform skirt. (Legs MUST be fully covered. No capri pants.)
- Students will be required to remove shoes during their visit, so socks are highly recommended.
- The temple will provide a sarong if someone is inappropriately dressed.

Seventh-Grade Medieval Faire Day Is March 28: Costume Guidelines + Volunteers Needed

St. Francis's Medieval Faire Day, an annual tradition for St. Francis seventh graders since 1987, returns this year on Friday, March 28.

ABOUT MEDIEVAL FAIRE DAY

During Medieval Faire Day, students immerse themselves in different cultures by participating in interactive and hands-on activities that highlight art, music, food, clothing, weaponry, and daily life in Medieval Europe, Far East Asia, and the Middle East. This event aligns with the seventh-grade World History curriculum students have been studying this year.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON MARCH 27 AND 28

While this event is only for St. Francis seventh graders, parent volunteers are needed on both Thursday, March 27, and Friday, March 28, to make the event a success. Please **sign up to volunteer here**.

COSTUME GUIDELINES

Students are welcome to dress in any clothing from a medieval culture from any of the three regions (Far East Asia, Europe, and Middle East). School dress code must be followed, and costumes should align with our standard dress code expectations.

- Please do not wear costumes that have a bare midriff or spaghetti straps/tank tops.
- Weapons of any kind are not permitted.

- Athletic shoes should be worn.
- Students need to be able to do physical activities outside and indoors.

QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions, please **contact Rita Pace via email** or at 832.382.4683.

Thank you in advance for your time and support as we continue this special tradition for our seventh graders! Huzzah! —The Medieval Faire Day Chairs

End-of-Year Testing Is May 19–23

As we return from spring break, many people are looking ahead to the end of the school year. Please note that end-of-year testing will occur during the week of May 19.

- These tests will not be administered before May 19.
- Any students who are absent that week will need to return to school after May 23 to complete a makeup exam.
- More information about the testing schedule will be provided in an email from your grade-level dean in the coming weeks.

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

During the season of Lent, 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 has been transformed into a sacred space for creativity with the divine as we "Paint the Psalms."
- From now 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.

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.
- ***Students currently enrolled in Advanced Math and/or Advanced English do not need to reapply to continue in these courses next year.***

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, which will take place Friday, April 25, through 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

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 Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Seventh-Grade Art á la Carte Field Trip to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple:* See note above about appropriate dress.
- *Midsemester 2 Progress Reports Released After 4:00 p.m.*

Monday, March 24

- *"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, March 25

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

- *Regular Schedule*

Wednesday, March 26

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *Eighth-Grade Art á la Carte Field Trip to The Menil Collection*

Thursday, February 27

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

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Friday, March 28

- *"B" Day*
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Seventh-Grade Medieval Faire Day:* Students only, with parent volunteers; see note above for more information

Upper School

Informational Meeting on Wednesday: Summer 2026 Travel Opportunity to AHSTF Edinburgh Festival Fringe

In summer 2026, the St. Francis Upper School will lead a group of theater students on a once-in-a-lifetime educational tour to the United Kingdom and the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF), which runs in conjunction with the world's largest performing arts festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Our group will spend a total of two weeks in the UK, performing our own production, attending Fringe shows, and touring Scotland and England.

- Join the **informational meeting** to learn about our itinerary, the sign-up process, payment options, and more:

  Date: Wednesday, March 19

Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Student Life Center Black Box on Couper Campus

- **RSVP here**, and we'll keep you updated on this incredible trip (including parent meeting details and deadline reminders).
- For questions, **email Kristina Revaz**, Interim Director of Fine Arts.

The Social Institute: Find Your Influencers

In the week prior to spring break, each advisory group ran a Social Institute lesson on the topic of Find Your Influencers, guiding students in discussing how to surround themselves with positive role models and credible influences. Please click on your student's grade link below for further information on the curriculum and for resources that will help you continue the conversation at home.

- **Ninth Grade and Tenth Grade:** Analyzing the Impact of AI-Generated Misinformation
- **Eleventh Grade:** Understanding Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and Its Impact on Student-Athletes
- **Twelfth Grade:** Mastering Stress Management for Twelfth Grade and Beyond

Parent Event on Wednesday: Learn to Navigate College-Admissions Testing

Parents of students in grades 9–11, please join us for a College Planning Case Study this 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, college list–building strategies, application workloads, and student well-being. **Click here to register.**

Thursday: Juniors Will Take the SAT

St. Francis juniors (only) will take the SAT this 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.

RSVP + Purchase Guest Tickets for the US Athletic Awards Banquet by March 28

Parents and student-athletes, RSVP now 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 the achievements of all Upper School teams and athletes throughout the year.
- Student-athletes attend for free, and guest tickets are $30/person.

- **Click here to RSVP and to purchase guest tickets** by the deadline of Friday, March 28.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 17

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

Tuesday, March 18

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

Wednesday, March 19

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Monumental Bible Study With Mtr. Hylden:* 7:30–7:50 a.m. at the Monumental Steps
- *Navigating College Admissions Testing:* 6:30–7:30 p.m. in Nau Dining Hall; for parents of students in grades 9–11

Thursday, March 20

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Spring Pep Rally:* 10:00 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Juniors (Only) Take the SAT Exam:* In the FAB Portables, rooms 104 and 105; additional information above

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Friday, March 21

- *"B" Day*

- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit Wear shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *US Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Progress Reports Published*

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.

Learning to Meditate in Lent: Three-Class Series Begins March 23

Christian Meditation is a perfect way to mark this Lenten season, as we invite Jesus into our every breath. Beginning March 23, join Nichole Hilgert for three Sunday morning sessions designed for anyone who wants to learn Christian Meditation, as well as for anyone who already practices this form of prayer and wants to dive deeper.

- Nichole is looking forward to sharing all she has learned under her studies with Fr. David Price and from the teachings of Fr. Laurence Freeman with The World Community for Christian Meditation.
- The class will be held in the Office Conference Room, CH-115, from 10:10 to 10:50 a.m. on March 23, March 30, and April 6.

First Communion Sunday Is March 23

Join us this Sunday, March 23, to witness a holy rite of passage. Second graders who have been learning about the Holy Eucharist will receive their First Communions at the 9:00 a.m. service on this day. Prayers and acknowledgment will be given.

Outreach Sunday Is March 30

Our Spring Outreach Sunday will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 30, in the St. Francis Parish Hall. Come lend a hand to make sandwiches and snack bags for Lord of the Streets to distribute.

High School Speaker Series Continues on March 30

On Sunday, March 30, at 10:00 a.m., all high school students are invited to come hear Annie Valicek speak of her life journey. Meet in the St. Francis Parish Hall, upstairs in room 209.

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