WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of April 6

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

—Philippians 2:3-8

Wrapping Up Lent: Let Us Finish Strong

As we head into the final push of our Lenten observances, let us finish strong. It's been a journey, and there may have been ups and downs along the way, but we keep our eyes on Jesus as our model, persevering for the sake of our community. May we continue to grow in humility, giving thanks for many people who have blessed us on our way. This coming Sunday is Passion Sunday, with the Liturgy of the Palms. Jesus rides into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna," knowing that the shouts will soon turn against him. Nevertheless ... nevertheless, he continues on because of his deep love for his Father, and for us.

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.

Today at 2:00 p.m.: This Is Us Cultural Festival

The *This Is Us* Cultural Festival will be held this afternoon (Sunday, April 6) from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Couper Campus. As a bonus, our Pickup Parade welcoming newly enrolled families kicks off at 5:00 p.m. today! We're excited to showcase the beautiful cultures in our school community. Come enjoy food, fun, and performances from around the world.

Today at 5:00 p.m.: Pickup Parade to Welcome Our New Wolves

All St. Francis families are invited to help welcome our newly enrolled families this afternoon (Sunday, April 6) from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

- Please come dressed in your favorite St. Francis Spirit Wear or colors, and bring your cowbells, pom-poms, and homemade signs with special messages such as “Welcome New Wolves,” “Congratulations,” “Welcome to the Pack,” or whatever else you can think of!
- St. Francis families will line the circle drive around the Student Life Center. New families will drive through campus to pick up their swag bags and yard signs, and when they do, we will all be there showing our welcoming spirit and love to our new families.

U of H Basketball Team Is Headed to the Championship! WEAR RED TOMORROW!

All students, faculty, and staff can wear red (or U of H gear) tomorrow, Monday, April 7. The University of Houston Men's Basketball team faces off against Florida in the Championship game tomorrow night. Go Coogs! (*Note: This is not a free dress day. If you are not participating, please wear your regular uniform.*)

FoFA News: Join Us Friday for Our Next Meeting

Please join Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) this Friday, April 11, at 8:30 a.m. in the Admin Conference Room on Piney Point 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.

Submit Your Art à la Carte Docent Application by Friday

Applications to be a 2025–26 Art à la Carte (AALC) Docent are being accepted through this Friday, April 11, at 10:00 p.m.

- AALC Docents are a group of volunteers who present an established art curriculum in the classroom and on field trips. All parents of rising kindergarteners through eighth graders may apply.
- An email with the application link was sent on Friday, March 28, to all current and new parents. (We welcome parents of new students to submit an application—AALC is a great way to get involved at St. Francis!)
- Limited spots are available, and applications are time stamped.
- If you are interested and want more information, **email Reid Nelson**, incoming 2025–26 AALC Chair.

Dads' Club: Upcoming School-Support Opportunities

Join the Dads' Club at the following school-support volunteer activities and gatherings:

- **Network and Learn on Thursday, April 10:** Come visit with other dads and learn about STEM/IT-related school topics from Steve Johnson, Director of Instructional Technology. Doors open at 7:45 a.m. and the presentation begins at 8:15 a.m. in the Student Life Center Black Box on Couper Campus.
- **Upper School Sports Banquet on Tuesday, May 13:** Volunteers needed to assist with parking, directions, and check-in at this evening event.

Email Dads' Club with questions or comments or to volunteer for any of these school functions, or call Stedman Grigsby, Dads' Club president, at 832.367.0737.

Primary School

Tuesday: Reggio Parent Group Coffee Chat

Join us for a Reggio Parent Group Coffee Chat this Tuesday, April 8, at 1:15 p.m. in the Primary School Library. Hear from two of our fantastic Primary School lead teachers—Emily Husain and Janene Owens—about how you can help support our Reggio-inspired approach at home. This is an encore presentation of our February coffee chat. We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 7

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, April 8

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II and Pre-Primary (Griffith, Oteiza, and Polk) parents are invited to attend
- *Reggio Parent Group Coffee Chat:* 1:15 p.m. in the Primary School Library

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Wednesday, April 9

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

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Thursday, April 10

- *Primary II Plays*
  - 9:00 a.m. (Capasso)
  - 10:00 a.m. (Wiener)
  - 11:30 a.m. (Owens)
  - 12:30 p.m. (Suckow)

Friday, April 11

- *PS Conference Day:* Student holiday

Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 7

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Thursday, April 10

- *LS Journey to the Empty Tomb Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Friday, April 11

- *Mid-Trimester 3 Progress Reports Published*
- *Kindergarten Field Trip to the Cockrell Butterfly Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science:* 9:00–11:45 a.m.

Monday, April 14

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Main Street Theater Presents* Elephant and Piggie's "We Are in a Play!" *for PS/LS:* 7:45–10:00 a.m. in the FAC; students only

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Thursday, April 17

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

Friday, April 18

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school

Monday, April 21

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* No school

Middle School

Please, No Restaurant Food at Lunchtime

As we start returning to our normal lunch procedures, we wanted to add this reminder that students should not have restaurant food delivered to them at lunchtime. Students may bring their own lunches from home, and parents may request to eat lunch with their student(s).

Mid-Semester 2 Progress Reports Are Live

Mid-Semester 2 Progress Reports were posted to Veracross on March 21. Parents, please click “Classes & Reports” for each of your Middle School students to view the Mid-Semester 2 Progress Report, with grades and comments from each teacher.

Art á la Carte Field Trip Updates

- **Fifth-grade students** visited the Bryan Museum in Galveston on April 3.
- **Sixth-grade students** will be taking a walking tour of downtown Houston to observe a variety of architectural structures this Tuesday, April 8. Students should wear their regular school uniform on this day, with comfortable walking shoes.
- **Seventh-grade students** visited BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple in Stafford on March 21.
- **Eighth-grade students** will visit The Menil Collection on Friday, April 25. Students should wear their regular school uniform on this day, with comfortable walking shoes.

Advanced Academic Placement Makeup Testing Is May 3

Students who were unable to attend Advanced Academic Testing this week should plan to attend the makeup session scheduled for Saturday, May 3, at 8:30 a.m. Please **contact Julie Downs**, Interim Assistant Head of Middle School, if you have any questions.

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.

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, April 7

- *"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, April 8

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule for Grades 5, 7, and 8*
- *Sixth-Grade Art á la Carte Field Trip to Downtown Houston:* Students should wear their regular school uniform on this day, with comfortable walking shoes

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Wednesday, April 9

- *"B" Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*

Thursday, April 10

- *"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, April 11

- *"B" Day*
- *Spring Sports Pep Rally/Special Schedule:* 2:00–2:40 p.m.
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit Wear tops with full-length blue jeans or uniform bottoms

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Monday, April 14

- *"A" Day*
- ***Regular Uniform***
- *Regular Schedule*
- *NJHS Trip to Generation One (Grade 8 Only):* **8:30–11:00 a.m.**
- *MS Chapel:* 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Tuesday, April 15

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Regular Schedule*
- *Seventh-Grade Visit to Upper School:* **9:45 a.m.**; students only

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Wednesday, April 16

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

- *Regular Schedule*

Thursday, April 17

- *"B" Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Regular Schedule*
- *MS/US Combined Eucharist:* 10:05–11:05 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, April 18

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school

Monday, April 21

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* No school

Upper School

2025 AMIGOS Summer Programs
Grab your spot! Programs are filling up, and due dates are almost here.

Amigos de las Américas is a nonprofit organization offering leadership and service immersion experiences in Latin America, with options for students of all Spanish levels. AMIGOS programs run from two to six weeks and take place in Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, and the Dominican Republic, all inclusive of host-family stays.

- These programs are not run by St. Francis Episcopal School, but are an incredible offering that many students across Houston independent schools have participated in for years.
- You can **read more about the programs here** and get a glimpse of the programs from this past summer in **this quick reel**.
- Please **sign up to attend an info session** for more information, or **reach out to Viviana Denechaud** with any questions.

Wednesday: Monumental Questions on the Monumental Steps

Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m., join a Bible study with Mother Hylden to explore the big questions that are filling your mind this week. Mtr. Hylden provides baked goods, as well as a time of prayer as we start the day.

Thursday: Lunch With Mtr. Hylden

Thursdays at noon, enjoy lunch with Mother Hylden. Share the “heart of your week” or your “high, low, buffalo” with her for a homemade chocolate chip cookie. We’ll reflect on the relationships, academics, sports games, and events that have lived rent-free in our heads and hearts this week.

Wolf of the Week

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to **nominate a student they have seen being a "person for others" as Wolf of the Week**. Winners will be announced in Chapel on Fridays.

Junior Ring Ceremony Is April 22: Parents, Drop Off Student Gifts Soon

Parents/guardians of juniors, we are excited to have you join us on Tuesday, April 22, to celebrate our rising seniors at the Junior Ring Ceremony. A communication was sent out to junior parents/guardians detailing the event. If you have a ring or small gift for your student to be blessed during the ceremony, please bring that to Ms. Urbanek in the Student Life Center by Monday, April 14, at noon. (Students who don’t have a parent gift will receive a small token from us during the ceremony.)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 7

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Tuesday, April 8

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

Wednesday, April 9

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Thursday, April 10

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, April 11

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

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Monday, April 14

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Tuesday, April 15

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

Wednesday, April 16

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Thursday, April 17

- *"B" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *US Maundy Thursday Eucharist Chapel:* At Piney Point Campus; students will be transported by bus

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Friday, April 18

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school

Monday, April 21

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* 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.
- **Lighthouse Children's Art:** 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall
- **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

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

PALM SUNDAY—APRIL 13

- *Services:* 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 17

- *Service:* 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 18

- *Liturgy of Good Friday:* 12:00 p.m.
- *Walk to Calvary:* 12:00 p.m. (Children meet in the OAC—back side of the school, rain or shine)
- *The Seven Last Words:* 1:00 p.m.
- *Stations of the Cross:* 2:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY—APRIL 19

- *Private Confessions in the Chapel:* 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- *Easter Eve Baptisms:* 4:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 20

- *Services:* 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. (No 5:00 p.m. service)
- *Easter Celebration—Food and Fellowship:* 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- *Easter Egg Hunt:* 10:00 a.m. (Includes petting, feeding, and photo opportunities with bunnies)
- *Easter Resurrection Flowered Cross Photo Opportunities:* 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: Join the Altar Guild to Make Palm Crosses

Join members of the Altar Guild in making palm crosses this Thursday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Crosses are made for the church, as well as for the teachers at St. Francis Episcopal School. No experience is required—just show up and join the fun. Light refreshments will be provided.

Forgiveness Seminar Is Saturday

Father Bates will lead a Forgiveness Workshop this Saturday, April 12, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room. Consider whom you need to forgive, and work through a process of learning to release others and yourself. Light bites will be served. RSVP to Sally Jo Flores at **sally@sfch.org** or 713.782.1270.

Dedicate a Gift Toward Easter Lilies or the Music Fund

You're invited to play a special part in our St. Francis Easter traditions by donating Easter lilies for the church altar or a gift to the St. Francis Music Fund in support of the beautiful music enjoyed during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Dedicate your gift in memory of a loved one or in thanks for the blessings in your life. Forms are available on the tables in the Narthex, or you may **submit the form and payment online**. The suggested donation for Easter lilies is $30 per dedication. Dedications submitted by noon on Monday, April 14, will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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.

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 1 Peter
  - **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.