WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of April 13

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

—Matthew 21:9–11

Holy Week: The Depth of His Sorrow, the Extent of His Love

This week is Holy Week, when we are invited to journey with our Lord—from the Triumphal Entry on Sunday, through the prophetic meal, to the washing of the feet of the disciples who would betray and deny him, his arrest in the garden, the mock trial, the desertion of his disciples, the crucifixion, and the burial of his body in the tomb. Let us not come glibly to the Resurrection without appreciating the depth of his pain and sorrow, and the exquisite extent of his love. He will wait for us outside the empty tomb, to greet us, and to turn our world upside down.

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.

Help the SFPO Say 'Thank You' to Faculty and Staff: End-of-Year Gift Collection Now Open!

Twice a year, the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) invites families to contribute

toward gift collections to show our appreciation for our incredible teachers and staff. By pooling our generosity, we're able to provide a thoughtful distribution of gifts to everyone—from classroom teachers to support staff—reflecting the value each faculty and staff member brings to our children's experience.

- For additional details, please **read this letter from the SFPO**.
- **Click here to make a contribution** by Sunday, May 4.

St. Francis Family Day at Asia Society Texas

You're invited to join us for a special **St. Francis Family Day at Asia Society Texas** on **Saturday, May 10, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** Students, their families, and faculty will participate in various tours and crafting activities, deepening their understanding of different Asian cultures and learning about the many opportunities that Asia Society Texas has to offer. We will then head to Fung's Kitchen in Chinatown to experience authentic Asian cuisine and extend our community gathering.
Please **submit this form if you are interested**.

Dads' Club: Volunteer With Us on May 13

Join the Dads' Club as we provide support at the Upper School Sports Banquet on Tuesday, May 13. Volunteers are needed to assist with parking, directions, and check-in at this evening event. With questions or to volunteer, **email the Dads' Club** or call Stedman Grigsby, Dads' Club president, at 832.367.0737.

Health and Safety Update

This week, the City of Houston received a positive norovirus result from a sample submitted on March 26, confirming our previous assumption. We are grateful for the health agencies' work with St. Francis as we continue to see very limited cases of illness on either campus. While most of our menu items in the dining halls have returned to normal, we will continue use of disposable plates and limit self-serve items at the recommendation of Harris County for the time being. We found it important to share this update with you and look forward to a return to normal operations soon.

Primary School

Dive Into a Good Book at the Primary School Book Fair: April 23–25

On Wednesday, April 23, through Friday, April 25, all Primary School families are invited to stop by the Primary School Library for our Under the Sea Book Fair.

BOOK FAIR HOURS
Primary School Book Fair hours are as follows:

- **Wednesday, April 23:** 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

- **Thursday, April 24:** 12:00–6:00 p.m. (Please note the extended afternoon hours.)
- **Friday, April 25:** 7:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (Please note the extended morning hours.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Sign up here to volunteer if you would like to help at the Book Fair.

QUESTIONS?
Please **email Brittny Bush** with any questions. We can't wait to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 14

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, April 15

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

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Wednesday, April 16

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

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Friday, April 18

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school

Monday, April 21

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* No school

Tuesday, April 22

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

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Wednesday, April 23

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and Pre-Primary (Keyes and Labarthe) parents are invited to attend
- *Under the Sea Book Fair:* 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. in the PS Library
- *Pre-Primary Mothers and Others:* 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 24

- *Primary II and Others:* 1:30 p.m.
- *Under the Sea Book Fair:* 12:00–6:00 p.m. in the PS Library

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Friday, April 25

- *Primary I Mothers and Others Picnic:* 11:00 a.m.
- *Under the Sea Book Fair:* 7:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in the PS Library

Lower School

Digital Wellness Parent Webinar: Hot Topics in the Online World

Are you confused by teen slang, wondering if Roblox is safe, or needing a breakdown of group texting? Let's talk! Please join us for our next online session, Hot Topics in the Online World, on Monday, April 28, at 9:00 a.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. **RSVP here** to receive the link to join us.

Rising Fifth Graders: Makeup Testing for Advanced Academics Placement Is May 3

Rising fifth graders (current fourth graders) who are applying for 2025–26 Advanced Academics and were unable to attend placement testing in early April 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.

Mark Your Calendar

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

Thursday, April 24

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Middle School

Uniform Reminders

As the end of the year approaches and many students have grown, it is a good time to check the fit of student uniforms and to ensure that all uniform expectations are being met. Our uniform provider, **FlynnO'Hara**, is very responsive to family needs.

- 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, so if a shirt comes untucked when a student raises their arms, a larger size may be

required.

Digital Wellness Parent Webinar: Hot Topics in the Online World

Are you confused by teen slang, wondering if Roblox is safe, or needing a breakdown of group texting? Let's talk! Please join us for our next online session, Hot Topics in the Online World, on Monday, April 28, at 9:00 a.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. **RSVP here** to receive the link to join us.

Save the Date: Dance for Grades 6–8 Is May 9

There will be a dance for students in grades 6–8 on Friday, May 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the Piney Point Campus. The theme for the dance is *Summer!* More details will follow when we get closer to the dance.

Athletics Physicals for Returning Students Are May 14

St. Francis will be providing on-campus athletics physicals for returning students on Wednesday, May 14. Please be on the lookout for the information packet that will be sent home with your student after Easter Break. If you have any questions, please **contact Katie Ostrovecky**.

Junior High Retreat: Register by April 18

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.

- The deadline to register is this Friday, April 18.
- 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!**

Eighth-Grade Art á la Carte Field Trip Is April 25

Our eighth-grade students will visit The Menil Collection on Friday, April 25. Students should wear their regular school uniform for this day, with comfortable walking shoes.

Advanced Academics Placement: Makeup Testing Is May 3

Students who were unable to attend Advanced Academics placement testing in early April 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.

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 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***
- *Special 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

Tuesday, April 22

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

Wednesday, April 23

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *National Junior Honor Society Trip to the Alley Theatre*

Thursday, April 24

- *"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 25

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

Upper School

Handbook Prohibits Use of Personal Hotspots on Campus

Reminder: The use of Personal Hotspots or other personal Wi-Fi sources on campus is prohibited in the *Upper School Handbook*. Students are expected to "support computer and network security by not interfering with the operation of any computer or network or bypassing restrictions regarding technology use."

Register Now for Tomorrow's SmartTrack College Funding Webinar

Understanding college funding and the actual cost of college is a key component of the college-planning process. SmartTrack College Funding is offering a webinar tomorrow—Monday, April 14—at 7:00 p.m. to help parents explore these options and provide valuable planning information that will be especially relevant for parents of students in grades 9–11. **Please register here.**

Wednesday: College Athletics Recruiting and Information Session

Please join Director of College Counseling Claudia Mejia and Director of Athletics Ernest Robertson Jr. for College Athletics: NCAA/NIL Information Session on Wednesday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. in Crum Gym. You'll learn about academic-eligibility requirements for college sports, and how name, image, and likeness opportunities are affecting college student-athletes. **Please RSVP here.**

Junior Ring Ceremony Is April 22: Parents, Drop Off Student Gifts by Tomorrow at Noon

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 tomorrow—Monday, April 14—at noon. (Students who don't have a parent gift will receive a small token from us during the ceremony.)

Calling All Freshmen and Sophomores: Summer 2026 Travel Opportunity

The SFE Theatre Program is excited to announce that they will lead a group of US theater students on a once-in-a-lifetime educational tour to AHSTF Fringe Festival over the summer 2026! This trip offers a wealth of opportunities for learning outside the classroom and for personal growth.

The American High School Theatre Festival, a one-of-a-kind theatre opportunity, runs in conjunction with the world's largest performing arts festival, the world-renowned 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.

To learn more and enroll, visit SFE Educational Travel.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

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:* 10:00 a.m. 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

Tuesday, April 22

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *US Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Junior Ring Ceremony:* 6:00 p.m.; mandatory for all juniors

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Wednesday, April 23

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

Thursday, April 24

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

Friday, April 25

- *"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

Saturday, April 26

- *US Prom:* 8:00–11:00 p.m. at Blossom Hotel

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. (with Passion Play), 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.
- *Photo Opportunities With Donkey:* 10:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 17

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

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 18

- *Liturgy of Good Friday:* 12:00 p.m.
- *Children's Walk to Calvary:* 12:00 p.m. (Children meet in the Parish Hall)
- *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.

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.

Please Pray: Kairos Prison Ministry Will Visit Terrell Unit May 1–4

Over the coming weeks, we ask you to pray for the Kairos Prison Ministry, which will lead a Kairos Weekend in the Terrell Unit in Rosharon from Thursday, May 1, to Sunday, May 4. During this time, volunteers, led by George Hippard, will enter the unit for three and a half days, delivering a defined program of talks, prayer, and praise. Individual meal tickets will be placed before residents at each meal, along with a placemat that is colored by a child or volunteer. A long-long-long prayer chain will be brought into the room, with each link of the chain bearing the first name of an individual who will pray for the participants over the weekend. Please pray for the residents and for those involved however you feel so called.

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.