

News for the Week of October 5

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

We love because God first loved us. —1 John 4:19

Prayer and Other Support

Use the **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.

Festival Merchandise Bags Are Coming Home

Festival is almost here, Wolves—and the excitement is going home with you! This week, Festival merchandise bags will be sent home with students as follows:

- **Primary and Lower School:** Handed out in homeroom
- **Middle and Upper School:** Handed out in advisory

Timing will depend on when your child's teacher distributes them, so keep an eye out! If you haven't received your bag by the end of the week, please check with your child's teacher first. If they don't have it, reach out to the **Advancement Office via email** or at 713.458.6198, and we'll make sure you're taken care of.

MISSED BUYING MERCHANDISE? DON'T WORRY—WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Join us at the Festival Pop-Up Sale on Wednesday, October 15, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the People Place on Piney Point Campus.

JOIN THE FESTIVAL CREW!

We need lots of volunteers to make Festival day a success! Can you take a shift and help us out? Or does your student need volunteer hours?

- Middle School students may only volunteer with a parent.
- Middle School parents (volunteer helpers), Upper School students, and all other volunteers can **sign up here**.

We can't wait to celebrate with our whole Pack at Festival—it's almost here, and it's going to be amazing!

Student Photos Now Available

Earlier this week, all divisions took individual photos. If you did not pre-order, you should have received an unedited photo proof of your child after picture day. The emails come directly from our photography vendor, Inter-State Studio, and provide links and unique order codes for the vendor's website for easy ordering. For those students who were absent on Picture Day, makeup pictures will be held in November.

Dads' Club Grilling Volunteers Needed Friday

St. Francis dads, come join us this Friday, October 10, for some fun and football while cooking burgers and hot dogs for our fans. If you can't commit to a shift, but know you'll be at the 7:00 p.m. Varsity Football home game against the Northside Lions, feel free to swing by the tent and hang out.

- **Sign up to volunteer here.**
- **Email Dads' Club** with questions.

Week of October 19: Kitty's Coat Drive Is Coming to All Divisions

Get ready to wrap our community in warmth! From Primary School through Upper School, every division on both Piney Point and Couper campuses will join forces for Kitty's Coat Drive during the week of October 19. During this annual ingathering, we collect winter coats to donate to neighbors in need so they stay cozy all winter long. All gently used and new coats are welcome—you can even **order directly from Amazon via this curated link**! Look for collection bins near carpool drop-offs and reception areas.

Primary School

Volunteers Needed! SFPO Employee Appreciation Luncheon Is October 24

Calling all Primary School parent volunteers: Help say thank-you to St. Francis's amazing employees by signing up to cover a lunch shift so faculty and staff can enjoy the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Fall Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, October 24. **Click here to volunteer!**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 6

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

Tuesday, October 7

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend
- *Primary II Blessing of the Stuffed Animals*
- *Primary II Furry Friends Picnic:* Students only

Wednesday, October 8

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend
- *Primary I Blessing of the Stuffed Animals*

Thursday, October 9

- *Primary II Field Trip*

Friday, October 10–Monday, October 13

- *Fall Break:* No school

Tuesday, October 14

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend
- *Primary II Sings in Chapel (Capasso and Wiener)*

Wednesday, October 15

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

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Sunday, October 19

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
- *St. Francis Festival:* 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Monday, October 20

- *Late Start for All:* No Early Birds
- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend
- *Primary II Sings in Chapel (Theis and Suckow)*

Wednesday, October 22

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

Lower School

Volunteers Needed! SFPO Employee Appreciation Luncheon Is October 23
Calling all Lower School parent volunteers: Help say thank-you to St. Francis's amazing employees by signing up to cover a lunch shift so faculty and staff can enjoy the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Fall Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, October 23.

- LS lunch-duty shifts are 25 minutes long. You are welcome to sign up for more than one.
- **Click here to volunteer!**

Save the Date: Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest Is October 30
St. Francis's annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest for all Lower and Middle School Wolves will be held on Thursday, October 30. We will be adding more categories this year, so there will be even more opportunities to compete and win. Mark your

calendars, check back next week for a full list of categories and entry details—and start thinking about how you might like to decorate your pumpkin!

Current LS Students: Order Your 2024–25 Scrapbooks

Scrapbooks are now available for students who were in Primary II through fourth grade last school year (2024–25). These beautiful Shutterfly keepsakes feature 40+ pages of grade-specific events like class activities and projects, seasonal celebrations, fun at lunch and recess, school spirit, athletics, and special days like Grandparents' Day, Splash Day, St. Francis Festival, and more.

- Remember to order for your child's grade *last year* (2024–25 school year).
- **Click here** to purchase your scrapbooks today! **The order deadline is Sunday, October 19, at 11:59 p.m.**
- With any questions, please **email Lauren Brown**, 2024–25 St. Francis Parents Organization Scrapbook Lead.

Digital Wellness: Family Code Workshop Is Tuesday

Join us for the Smart Families Family Code Workshop this Tuesday, October 7, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Piney Point Campus. At this interactive event, parents and children will learn about safe and healthy technology use, while working together to create a set of family rules that fit their values. Don't miss this opportunity to build positive digital habits as a family! Dinner will be provided.
Please **register for the event** and tell us how many family members will attend.

LS Parent Volunteers Needed for Hearing and Vision Screenings

If you would like to sign up to help the nurses with Lower School hearing and vision screenings (held this week—Monday, October 6, through Thursday, October 9—details below), please **click here to volunteer**. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

This Week: Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings

This week—from Monday, October 6, through Thursday, October 9—St. Francis will be offering hearing and vision screenings for **all students in kindergarten, first grade, and third grade, and for any NEW students in second and fourth grades**. Screenings will be conducted by SFE nurses, who attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services this past spring.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Screenings will be held during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems of which we should be aware, please send a note to school with them.

- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take them to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via **email** or at 713.458.6128.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 6

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Vision and Hearing Screenings:* In grade-level pods

Tuesday, October 7

- *Vision and Hearing Screenings:* In grade-level pods
- *Crime Stoppers of Houston on Online Safety and Preventing Cyberbullying (Grades 2-4):* 1:15–2:55 p.m. in grade-level pods

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Wednesday, October 8

- *Vision and Hearing Screenings:* In grade-level pods

Thursday, October 9

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20-8:50 a.m.
- *Vision and Hearing Screening Makeups:* In grade-level pods

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Friday, October 10–Monday, October 13

- *Fall Break:* No school

Tuesday, October 14

- *Hispanic Heritage Month Program:* 9:40–10:20 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center; for students in grades 3 and 4

Thursday, October 16

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Friday, October 17

- *LS Festival Pep Rally:* 2:15–2:45 p.m. in the Piney Point Gym; students only

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Sunday, October 19

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday:* Joyful Sounds Choir will lead the 9:00 a.m. service
- *St. Francis Festival:* 12:00–4:00 p.m.

Monday, October 20

- *Late-Start for All:* 10:00 a.m.; NO EARLY DROPOFF FOR STUDENTS

Middle School

Afternoon Pickup Reminders for Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades
Middle School students should not be picked up by a parent in front of the school at the end of the day. Please use the carpool line to pick up your child by the Dining Hall beginning at 3:30 p.m.

- At 2:45 p.m., all sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students should report to the team sports practices or PE class.
- Injured athletes may attend practice to hear instructions from coaches.

- If you need to pick up your child prior to 3:30 p.m., please come inside to sign out your student at the front desk.

Middle School Community Impact: $6,882 and Counting!

Our Middle School students are living out the St. Francis mission of being *People for Others*. So far this year, they've contributed a total of **$6,882 in community impact value**, serving others through time, effort, and heart.

SERVICE HOURS BY CLASS:

- **Class of 2030:** 25 hours
- **Class of 2031:** 183 hours
- **Class of 2032:** 20 hours
- **Class of 2033:** 22 hours

Middle School students have served in a variety of ways across multiple community categories, making a meaningful difference near and far. We're so proud of the impact they've already made—and we can't wait to see how they continue to serve throughout the year!

This Week in Chapel

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

- **Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15**
- **Ushers:** Noble Goodman, Blair Hilliard, Everett Javidi, Paige Kothari
- **Acolytes:** Marina Rivette, Arya Shields
- **Crucifers:** Scarlett Sugulas, Peyton Walker
- **Readers:** Sloane Scheyer, Russell Willson
- **Singers:** John Graham, Charlie Singh, Fletcher Steen
- **Homilist:** Rev. Katie Mitchell+

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

- **Reading: Luke 17:11-19**
- **Ushers:** Ashley Leigh, Thomas Sandoz, Wren Savoie, Asher Schabdach
- **Acolytes:** Jack Sturdivant, Margot Bacon
- **Crucifers:** Gabriela White, William Allen
- **Readers:** Braxton Derrick, Ava Ganjineh
- **Singers:** MS Choir, fifth grade (first rot.)
- **Homilist:** Sofia Pace, eighth grade

Sixth-Grade Outdoor Learning Experience (OLE) Is October 17

On Friday, October 17, sixth-grade students and teachers will travel to Camp Olympia for a day of outdoor learning.

- Students should arrive on campus at 6:45 a.m. and will return to school at approximately 7:00 p.m.
- They should have breakfast before arriving and may bring snacks for the bus ride. Lunch and dinner will be provided.
- Medications administered at school will be sent with students for the day.

WHAT TO BRING

Students should bring the following with them on the OLE:

- **Water bottle**
- Closed-toed tennis shoes (no Crocs)
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Hat

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, sixth-grade families should look for the email that Marion Tolon (Coach T) sent on Friday, October 3. It includes information on dietary restrictions, as well as the medical release form that must be returned to the school.

Parent Presentation on Substance Use Prevention Is October 22

St. Francis has the honor of hosting Dr. Matt Bellace on Wednesday, October 22, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on Piney Point Campus. During this presentation, Dr. Bellace will speak with our Middle School and Upper School parents on substance-abuse prevention and mental-health awareness in an insightful, science-based, and seriously funny presentation. (He will also speak with our MS and US students later that day.)

Dr. Bellace has a PhD in clinical neuropsychology; trained at the National Institutes of Mental Health and The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City; and authored the best-selling book *A Better High: Laugh, Help, Run, Love and Other Ways to Get Naturally High*. He's a contributing author for *National Geographic Kids* and was featured in the PBS documentary *Voices of Hope*. He was also a recurring comedian on truTV's *World's Dumbest*.

If you're planning to attend, please **RSVP here**.

Save the Date: Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest Is October 30

St. Francis's annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest for all Lower and Middle School Wolves will be held on Thursday, October 30. We will be adding more categories this

year, so there will be even more opportunities to compete and win. Mark your calendars, check back next week for a full list of categories and entry details—and start thinking about how you might like to decorate your pumpkin!

Digital Wellness: Family Code Workshop Is Tuesday

Join us for the Smart Families Family Code Workshop this Tuesday, October 7, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Piney Point Campus. At this interactive event, parents and children will learn about safe and healthy technology use, while working together to create a set of family rules that fit their values. Don't miss this opportunity to build positive digital habits as a family! Dinner will be provided. Please **register for the event** and tell us how many family members will attend.

MS Parent Volunteers Needed for Hearing and Vision Screenings

If you would like to sign up to help the nurses with Middle School hearing and vision screenings (held Tuesday, October 14, through Thursday, October 16—details below), please **click here to volunteer**. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

October 14–16: Hearing and Vision Screenings for ALL Students in Grades 5 and 7 and for NEW Students in Grades 6 and 8

From Tuesday, October 14, through Thursday, October 16, St. Francis will be offering hearing and vision screenings for all students in fifth grade and seventh grade, plus any NEW sixth and eighth graders. Screenings will be conducted by SFE nurses, who attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services this past spring.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Screenings will be held during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems of which we should be aware, please send a note with them.
- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take them to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via **email** or at 713.458.6128.

Current Fifth-Grade Students: Order Your 2024–25 Scrapbooks by October 19

Scrapbooks are now available for students who were in fourth grade *last school year* (2024–25). These beautiful Shutterfly keepsakes feature 40+ pages of grade-specific events like class activities and projects, seasonal celebrations, fun at lunch and recess, school spirit, athletics, and special days like Grandparents' Day, Splash Day, St. Francis Festival, and more.

- Remember to order for your child's grade LAST YEAR (2024–25 school year).
- **Purchase your scrapbooks today! The order deadline is Sunday, October 19, at 11:59 p.m.**
- With any questions, please **email Lauren Brown**, 2024–25 St. Francis Parents Organization Scrapbook Lead.

Summer Travel 2026: Register Now for Costa Rica + Greece

COSTA RICA REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Once again, the St. Francis Experiential Travel Program is pleased to offer our rising/re-enrolled eighth graders the opportunity to take an incredible trip to Costa Rica. For over 15 years, our Middle School students have traveled to Costa Rica to take Spanish classes, experience the incredible culture, participate in amazing excursions, and lend their hands to meaningful service projects.

- **Who:** Rising/Re-enrolled Eighth Graders
- **Date:** May 31–June 13, 2026
- **Trip Leader:** Liz Ward, Sixth-Grade Dean/Middle School Spanish Teacher; **email with questions**
- **Tentative Trip Itinerary: 2026 Costa Rica Itinerary**
- **Trip Application:**
  - Please print and return with deposit check to trip leader Liz Ward.
  - **2026 Costa Rica Trip Application**
- **Parent Information Session: Watch the Zoom recording.**
- **NOTE:** Sign-ups are on a first-come, first-served basis. Once we reach 30 travelers, all other applications will be placed in a lottery for any remaining spots.

GREECE REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Register now for a trip of a lifetime to beautiful Greece! The summer 2026 travel planning season is upon us, and the Greece trip is open for applications.

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
- **Dates:** June 1–10, 2026
- **Cost:** $6,522 + $350 St. Francis Travel Fee
- **Trip Leader:** Ted Lakoski, Director of Counseling/Director of Experiential Travel, assisted by Marion Tolon (Coach T), PE Teacher/Student Transition Liaison
- **Parent Information Session: Watch the Zoom recording.**
- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:**

- **View the trip flyer** for more details.
- Please register with our travel vendor at the **ACIS Educational Tours trip website**.
- Print, sign, and return the **SFE Travel application for Greece**.
- **Email Ted Lakoski** with any questions.

WASHINGTON, DC—MORE INFO COMING SOON

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled sixth graders
- **Dates:** May 31–June 4, 2026
- **Trip Leader:** Maria Cruzalegui, Middle School Spanish Faculty
- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:** Sign-ups and more info coming to *Wolf Watch* later this month

Community Service Hours

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. During the 2025–26 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

Service hours in the Middle School are now being documented electronically through MobileServe. To submit service hours, students must accept the invitation sent to their school email from MobileServe. Parental permissions must also be given. Once the student sends the parental permission request, and that request is approved, students will be able to enter their hours electronically. The program is very intuitive; just select the most appropriate category of service and answer the questions. Once you have submitted your hours, Rev. Mitchell will be able to approve them. The deadline to submit volunteer hours for the 2025–26 school year remains Saturday, May 2, 2026.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 6

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Tuesday, October 7

- *"A" Day (Special Schedule)*
- *Crime Stoppers of Houston Presentation for Fifth-Grade Students:* 9:40 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
- *Eighth-Grade Students Visit Upper School:* 9:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
- *LS/MS Parent Workshop With Smart Families:* 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8

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

Thursday, October 9

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, October 10–Monday, October 13

- *Fall Break:* No school

Tuesday, October 14

- *"B" Day (Special Schedule)*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Hispanic Heritage Month Program:* 9:40 a.m. in the FAC
- *Hearing and Vision Screening:* Fifth-grade group 1

Wednesday, October 15

- *"B" Day (Repeated to Align With Upper School Schedule)*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Hearing and Vision Screening:* Fifth-grade group 2 and seventh-grade group 1

Thursday, October 16

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Hearing and Vision Screening:* Fifth-grade group 3, seventh-grade group 2, and new sixth and eighth graders

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Friday, October 17

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*
- *Sixth-Grade OLE Trip to Camp Olympia:* See note above

Upper School

PSAT Testing and Service Day—Wednesday, October 15
Attention, Upper School students and parents: Wednesday, October 15, is a half day. Students in grades 10 and 11 will take the PSAT test; students in grades 9 and 12 will participate in a service activity.

All tenth- and eleventh-grade students have successfully completed their exam setup and may continue preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT using the Bluebook application on their St. Francis laptops.

SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 15

- **All students:** Arrive by 7:45 a.m. Students may leave after completing their obligations for the day.
- **Grades 9 and 12:** Service-activity buses will depart at 8:00 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m.
- **Grades 10 and 11:**
  - *PSAT Exam Start Time:* 8:00 a.m.
  - *Exam End Time:* 12:00 p.m. (standard testing) or 1:00 p.m. (testing with accommodations)
  - Lunch will be served on the regular schedule (12:00–1:00 p.m.) for students who wish to eat before leaving campus.

PSAT DAY PREPARATION FOR TENTH AND ELEVENTH GRADERS

- Restart and update your laptop the night before.

- Bring your fully charged SFE-supported laptop and charger.
- Bring an **approved calculator**.

QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions, please **email Claudia Mejia**, Director of College Counseling.

Parent Presentation on Substance Use Prevention Is October 22

St. Francis has the honor of hosting Dr. Matt Bellace on Wednesday, October 22, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on Piney Point Campus. During this presentation, Dr. Bellace will speak with our Middle School and Upper School parents on substance-abuse prevention and mental-health awareness in an insightful, science-based, and seriously funny presentation. (He will also speak with our MS and US students later that day.)

Dr. Bellace has a PhD in clinical neuropsychology; trained at the National Institutes of Mental Health and The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City; and authored the best-selling book *A Better High: Laugh, Help, Run, Love and Other Ways to Get Naturally High*. He's a contributing author for *National Geographic Kids* and was featured in the PBS documentary *Voices of Hope*. He was also a recurring comedian on truTV's *World's Dumbest*.

If you're planning to attend, please **RSVP here**.

The Social Institute: Strike a Balance

In the past week, each advisory group ran a specific Social Institute lesson on the topic of Strike a Balance, exploring ways to balance students' time and attention on technology and the world around them. Please click on your student's grade link below for further information on the curriculum and for resources to help you continue the conversation at home.

- **Ninth Grade:** Debating Tech Giants' Newest Features Around Screen Time
- **Tenth Grade:** Exchanging Our Favorite Hacks for Better Time Management
- **Eleventh Grade:** Plus'ing How We Prep for Standardized Tests
- **Twelfth Grade:** Reimagining Mental Health And Preventing Burnout

US Arts Students: Join Us at the ISAS Arts Festival

All St. Francis Upper School Arts students are encouraged to join the US Arts Department at the ISAS Arts Festival, which will be held in Dallas on April 9–11, 2026. This exciting event brings together thousands of student artists from member schools for three days dedicated to creativity, performance, and exhibition. The festival is designed to foster high standards and stimulate creativity in performing and visual arts programs, celebrating the individual efforts of students and teachers alike.

- For more information, please **check out the promo video for the 2026 festival**.
- If you're interested in attending, please **fill out the ISAS Arts Festival Student Interest Form**.

St. Francis Travels to Scotland for the 2026 Fringe Festival

The St. Francis Arts faculty is excited to announce that they will lead a group of rising ninth-grade and rising tenth-grade students on a once-in-a-lifetime educational tour to AHSTF Fringe Festival over the summer of 2026! This trip offers a wealth of opportunities for learning outside the classroom and for personal growth.

The American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF), a one-of-a-kind arts 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, taking workshops, and touring Scotland and England.

LEARN MORE ABOUT 'THE FRINGE'

- **Visit the Edinburgh Festival Fringe website.**
- **Watch "Inside Scotland's Fringe Festival"** (CBS News video).

HOW TO REGISTER

- For more trip details and to register, **visit SFE Educational Travel** (Trip ID: Doran-5575).
- Please **email Kristina Revaz** with any questions.

Parent Session on College Athletic Recruitment Is Wednesday

Parents, join us virtually this Wednesday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. to learn about the college athletic recruitment process from a college-counseling perspective. We will discuss different pathways to playing in college, academic eligibility, and how to approach researching colleges. **Click here to join the Zoom meeting** when it's time.

Summer Travel 2026—Registration for Greece Continues

Register now for the trip of a lifetime to beautiful Greece! The summer 2026 travel planning season is upon us, and the Greece trip is open for applications.

- **Who:** Rising/re-enrolled Upper School students (rising grades 9–12)
- **Dates:** June 1–10, 2026
- **Cost:** $6,522 + $350 St. Francis Travel Fee
- **Trip Leader:** Ted Lakoski, Director of Counseling/Director of Experiential Travel, assisted by Marion Tolon (Coach T), PE Teacher/Student Transition Liaison
- **Parent Information Session:** **Watch the Zoom recording.**

- **Trip Information and Registration Requirements:**
  - **View the trip flyer** for more details.
  - Please register with our travel vendor at the **ACIS Educational Tours trip website**.
  - Print, sign, and return the **SFE Travel application for Greece**.
  - **Email Ted Lakoski** with any questions.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 6

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Hispanic Heritage Month Program:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Student College Rep Visit (Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Furman University):* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center (SLC) Conference Room

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Tuesday, October 7

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *US Chapel (National Merit and College Board Recognition Ceremony):* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym

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Wednesday, October 8

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student Bible Study:* 7:45–8:20 a.m. on the Monumental Stairs
- *Student College Rep Visit (Syracuse University and Reed College):* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the SLC Conference Room
- *US Parent Session on College Athletic Recruitment (Virtual Meeting):* 7:00–8:00 p.m. via **this Zoom link**; learn about the college athletic recruitment process from a college-counseling perspective

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Thursday, October 9

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

- *Student College Rep Visit (Missouri University of Science and Technology and St. Edward's University):* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in the SLC Conference Room

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Friday, October 10–Monday, October 13

- *Fall Break:* No school

Tuesday, October 14

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

Wednesday, October 15

- *PSAT Day (Half Day/Special Schedule)*
  - *Freshmen and Seniors:* Community service
  - *Sophomores and Juniors:* PSAT testing

Thursday, October 16

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Diwali Recognition:* 12:00–1:00 p.m. in Nau Dining Hall

Friday, October 17

- *"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

Sunday, October 19

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
- *St. Francis Festival:* 12:00–4:00 p.m.

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

November 9: Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

On Sunday, November 9, join the Assisi Choir as we welcome back the wonderful tradition of Choral Evensong—the sung evening prayer of the Episcopal church—to St. Francis. This service, primarily led by the choir, features beautiful singing of psalms, canticles, and hymns of our church. An organ recital by John Kirk will precede the service at 4:15 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals Is This Afternoon

Join us for St. Francis's Annual Blessing of the Animals today—Sunday, October 5—at 4:00 p.m. in the school's Courtyard. Along with blessings and pictures, you are invited to bring a donation for Citizens for Animal Protection (CAPS). CAPS needs pet food, cat litter, bleach, towels, fleece blankets, and dog leashes. A local veterinary clinic will be in attendance to answer your pet questions.

October 19: Episcopal Schools Sunday and St. Francis Festival

Join us on October 19 for Episcopal Schools Sunday, when we will celebrate St. Francis Episcopal School (SFES) at both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Our Chalice Bearers, Readers, Ushers, Acolytes, and choir members will all be students, staff, and faculty of SFES. Many alumni will be in attendance, as well as present-day students and faculty. Come and show your support for our much-loved school.

SFES Festival: From 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., head over to the SFES athletic field for fun-filled events. More information to come.

Houston Chamber Choir Concert Is October 24

Join us on Friday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. for a Houston Chamber Choir concert at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Adult Formation Classes With Father Bates Continue October 26

Father Bates's second Adult Formation classes will continue to meet in the church library at 10:10 a.m. on the following Sundays: October 26, November 2, December 7, and January 11 and 18. Open to all adults who have a desire to deepen their understanding and practice of their Christian faith, these classes are required for adults being confirmed on Sunday, February 22, at the 9:00 a.m. service. For more information and to sign up, **email Sally Jo Flores**.

Join Us for Wednesday Evening Programs

On Wednesdays this fall after the 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and dinner prepared by our wonderful Chef Alfredo ($15/person), we offer interesting programs:

- **Pilgrimage Presentation:** On selected Wednesday evenings—October 22 and December 10—Fr. Bates will present a program on the trip he took to Turkey this past June.
- **October 1:** Presentation by Rev. Katie Mitchell
- **October 8:** Presentation by Rev. Bob Wismer
- **Keeping the Fire Alive:** On the other Wednesdays, Father Price will lead a program with video presentations from Albert Haase, OFM—a course on navigating challenges in the Christian spiritual life. This engaging Franciscan friar offers helpful direction on spirituality.

Women's Bible Study Is Held Wednesday Mornings

Women of all ages and life stages are invited to join us for a Bible study on the Parables of Jesus. The study will be held on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We'll kick off at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship and a speaker, followed at 10:00 a.m. by small-group discussion and prayer. For more information or to sign up, **email Allison Devlin**.

Youth Confirmation Class of 2027

Next year's Confirmation class is in the beginning stages. If your child is presently in the eighth grade or beyond and is interested in being confirmed into the Episcopal Church, please **email Cindy Huteson**. Classes will begin on January 25, 2026.

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:** Acts of the Apostles
  - **Location:** La Madeleine (Except on second Tuesday of each month, when group meets in St. Francis Church Parish Hall)
  - **Contact:** **Fr. David Price**
- Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Study: Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m.
  - **Study:** Hebrews
  - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact:** **Sally Jo Flores**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Wednesdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Parables of Jesus
  - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact:** **Allison Devlin**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** 2 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.