WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of January 4

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13

From Christmas to Epiphany: Called to Carry the Light Into the World

The Christmas season wraps up tomorrow, January 5. William Shakespeare gave some attention to it with his play *The Twelfth Night*. Epiphany comes next, a natural progression from the Christmas story, taking the lessons learned about God in the Nativity out into God's world. The wise men followed the light, traveling from distant lands, saw the Christ Child, worshipped him with extravagant gifts, and then returned to their homes, taking the light with them.

We are drawn to the light, to savor the glow of love, but we are also commissioned to take that light to everyone we meet—like the wise men, like the shepherd. The light has come for all.

It is like centripetal and centrifugal force. Christmas is a centripetal force—the light drawing us to the center, a celebration of the light drawing all people to God. Epiphany is a centrifugal force—sending you outward, out into the world with the light of Christ as a shining and burning light within us.

The Chaplains want to wish you a bright and joyful Epiphany. Be the light. Shine for all.

Father Bob Wismer

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.

It's Gala Season: Time to Shine On St. Francis!

Now that the holidays are over, get ready to really SHINE! Our much-anticipated St. Francis Gala is on Saturday, February 7, and there is a lot happening before the big night. See below for important upcoming dates:

- **Book Discounted Rooms for Gala by January 7:** If you plan to stay overnight at the Post Oak Hotel the night of the Gala, there are a limited number of rooms available at a discounted rate. Please **click here** to reserve online or call the Post Oak Hotel Reservations desk directly at 844.386.1600 by this Wednesday, January 7, and mention that you're with the SFE Gala to receive the room block discount. Please **email Lauren Sutherland** with any questions.
- **Gala Ticket Payment Deadline is January 7:** Please remember to pay any outstanding invoices by Wednesday, January 7. Any tickets that have not been paid for at that time will be released for sale. The last day to purchase tickets is Friday, January 9. **Visit the event website** for full details.
- **Silent Auction and Spring Sign-up Parties Go Live on January 21:** Our silent auction AND Spring Sign-Up Parties will go live at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21. This year's silent auction includes some incredible one-of-a-kind packages and is open to the entire community, so feel free to share the link with friends and family and encourage them to support St. Francis by bidding. A preview of all items for Gala—silent auction, big board, and live auction—will be available next week. Stay tuned!

This Friday: Join Us for the Winter Wolf Games

Come cheer on our Upper School girls and boys soccer and basketball teams at the Winter Wolf Games this Friday, January 9. Games will be held on the Couper Turf Field and in Crum Gym. Grab some dinner from Raising Cane's, Frito pies, and nachos, plus enjoy a special hot cocoa, coffee, and tea bar.

- **Primary School and Lower School Halftime Fun:** Arrive by 5:30 p.m. for Primary and Lower School students to participate in a soccer shoot-out with Wolfie at halftime of the 5:00 p.m. Varsity Girls Soccer game.
- **Middle School Halftime Fun:** Arrive by 6:00 p.m. for the Varsity Girls Basketball game for a chance to participate in a three-point competition at halftime!

Click here for the full game schedule. Can't wait to see you there!

‘The App Trap’: Digital Wellness Parent Presentation Is January 14

Parents of students in pre-K through middle school, please join us on Wednesday, January 14, from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. for the Smart Families Parent Presentation of ‘The App Trap,’ an interactive session that offers neuroscience education about the addictive nature of the apps our children use. Held in the Crum Library on Piney Point Campus, this session will help parents understand how apps are deliberately engineered to capture and hijack focus and attention, particularly during critical stages of brain development. Parents will gain insights into practical tips for developing healthier digital habits at home and strategies for more mindful technology use as a family.

Click here to reserve your seat.

Nominations Now Open for SFPO Chairs and Committee Members

It's time to start thinking about the 2026–27 St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) Committee. The SFPO supports the mission of St. Francis by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities for our parent community. It’s a great way to get involved at school and meet some new friends along the way! If you are interested in serving on the SFPO Executive Committee—or know someone who is interested whom you would like to nominate—please **email SFPO President Courtney Schilling** by Tuesday, January 13.

Next Booster Club General Meeting Is Thursday

The next Booster Club General Meeting will be this Thursday, January 8, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on Piney Point Campus. If you can’t join in person, **click here to join via Microsoft Teams**. Come get involved and see what’s going on as we prepare for the Winter Wolf Games on Friday!

January 12–16: Donate Used Uniforms and Baseball/Softball Equipment in Carpool

DONATE USED UNIFORMS FOR UNIFORM RESALE

Did you clean out your closets over the break? Please donate any uniforms or Spirit Wear in good condition for Uniform Resale. St. Francis Parents Organization volunteers will collect donations during carpool January 12–16. You may also drop off donations any time year-round in the front office at Piney Point Campus.

DONATE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT SPRING SPIRIT

The Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Boys Bible Study is collecting new and gently used baseball and softball equipment to support Spring Spirit, an education, sports, and ministry program serving athletes in Spring Branch. Donations will be collected during Middle School carpool drop-off January 12–16.

We are looking for items such as the following:

- Bats
- Gloves
- Helmets
- Catcher's gear
- Baseballs and softballs
- Equipment bags

Your donations will help young athletes learn, grow, and thrive—on and off the field. Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry and helping us knock this out of the park!

January 8, 9, and 12: FoFA Needs Volunteers to Help Prepare for the US Visual Arts Show

The Upper School Visual Arts Show is coming to Couper Campus soon, and Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) is seeking volunteers to help mount, label, and hang art in the afternoons on Thursday, January 8; Friday, January 9; and Monday, January 12. **Click here to sign up as a volunteer.**

Explore and Extend: Register Now for Spring Enrichment

We are excited to announce that registration for Explore and Extend Spring Enrichment is now open. Classes will begin next week (week of January 12).

- **Explore and Extend Spring Enrichment Offerings: Click here to view spring classes.**
- **Registration Portal: Click here to register.**

Please carefully review our registration and refund timeline:

- 100% refund available until Friday, January 9
- 80% refund available until Friday, January 16
- 50% refund available until Friday, January 23
- January 23 is also the last day to register for Spring Enrichment classes.

Please submit all schedule changes, withdrawal requests, or class adjustments by the dates listed above to the Explore and Extend Office. After January 23, all classes are non-refundable and non-transferable; no exceptions can be made.

For questions or assistance with registration, please contact the Explore and Extend Office via **email** or by phone at 713.458.6437.

Reminder: Online Safety Update

Crime Stoppers of Houston has issued an alert about an online group that targets minors through social media and gaming platforms. Please **review this safety**

information and remind your children to block and report any suspicious online interactions to a trusted adult.

Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 5

- *Last Day of Christmas Break:* No school

Tuesday, January 6

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

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Wednesday, January 7

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

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Monday, January 12

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, January 13

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

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Wednesday, January 14

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

Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 5

- *Last Day of Christmas Break:* No School

Tuesday, January 6

- *Classes Resume*
- *LS Semester 2 Begins*

Thursday, January 8

- *LS Epiphany Eucharist Chapel:* 8:20-8:50 a.m.

Friday, January 9

- *LS Semester 1 Report Card Published:* 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 12

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Thursday, January 15

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Middle School

Bless Your Home for the New Year!

As we celebrate **#Epiphany2026**, St. Francis invites your family to participate in the ancient tradition of Chalking the Door.

WHAT IS IT?

It's a simple way to dedicate our homes to God at the start of the year. Using blessed chalk, we mark the lintel of our front door with the following formula: **20 + C + M + B + 26**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- **The Numbers:** Represent the current year (2026).
- **The Crosses:** Represent our salvation in Christ.
- **The Letters:** They stand for the legendary names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar), but also for the Latin phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedicat"—**"May Christ bless this house."**

In the Anglican tradition, we believe the home is a "Domestic Church." This ritual reminds us that God's presence isn't just inside the church building. It's in the ordinary and mundane—in our hallways, our kitchens, and our guest rooms all year long.

SHARE THE BLESSING

Your child will be given a piece of chalk after the Epiphany Eucharist to bring home. Take a photo of your family chalking your door and tag **@stfrancishouston** and use **#Epiphany2026**. Let's fill our feed with blessed homes!

To learn more about the ancient tradition, **read this article from *Anglican Compass***.

This Week in Middle School Chapel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 (EPIPHANY EUCHARIST CHAPEL)

- **Read the family devotional.**
- **Scripture: John 1: 1-18 CEB**
- **Musicians:** 6th-8th Production
- **Ushers:** Walker Wood, Emory Wuertz, Akash Ali, Jackson Bartlein
- **Acolytes:** Victoria Diaz, Joshua Dunlap
- **Crucifers:** Alexander Graham, Adele High
- **Readers:** Tate Meyer, Sydnie Price
- **Homilist:** Dr. Byron Williams
- **Officiant:** Rev. Katie Mitchell

Cool-Weather Uniform Reminders

With cooler weather here, jackets and sweatshirts are needed most mornings. Please remember that only St. Francis sweatshirts are to be worn inside the building. **Students should always wear a polo shirt underneath the sweatshirt.**

Girls are welcome to wear sweats or leggings underneath uniform skirts. These should be solid colors (without patterns) in gray, white, blue, or black.

Phone Policy Reminder

This is a gentle reminder that communication devices are not allowed in Middle School classrooms. If a student has a communication device, the device (both phones and watches) must be turned in during advisory every day. Students are not allowed to use personal devices "car door to car door."

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 5

- *Last Day of Christmas Break:* No School

Tuesday, January 6

- *Classes Resume*
- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Wednesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 8

- *"A" Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Epiphany Eucharist:* 9:40–10:40 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, January 9

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*
- *Semester 1 Grades Released*

Monday, January 12

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

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Tuesday, January 13

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

Wednesday, January 14

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Parent Digital Wellness Presentation on 'The App Trap':* 8:15 a.m. in the Crum Library on Piney Point Campus; **click here to register**
- *Student Digital Wellness Presentation:* 9:40 a.m.

Thursday, January 15

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

Friday, January 16

- *"A" Day*

- *Special Schedule*
- *Pep Rally and Eighth-Grade vs. Faculty Basketball Game:* 2:00–3:30 p.m.
- *St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*

Upper School

Immersions and Explorations Week Is Here!

We are excited to share details about Immersions and Explorations Week, which begins this Tuesday, January 6, and runs through Monday, January 12. Sessions will run daily from 8:50 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This unique program is an interim term between academic semesters where students engage in a weeklong experiential learning course designed to broaden their perspectives beyond traditional classroom work.

- Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to fully participate, as they will receive grades and required credit for their chosen courses.
- For more information, please see the email sent by Mrs. Reyes on December 5.

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To learn more about the ancient tradition, **read this article from *Anglican Compass***.

This Wednesday: Career Exploration and Alumni Panel

Starting at 9:00 a.m. this Wednesday, January 7, freshmen and sophomores will use Scoir to explore career paths as they connect their strengths and interests to potential college and career pathways.

Meanwhile, juniors and seniors will engage with an Alumni Panel featuring recent Upper School graduates currently in college. We're excited to welcome back:

- Lauren Deroches '24—University of Oklahoma
- Lea Voytovych '24—Olin College of Engineering
- Riley Williams '25—Colorado School of Mines
- Andres Garcia '25—Howard Payne University

SAT and ACT Registration Now Open for Juniors

Junior families, it's time to register for spring standardized testing. St. Francis will be offering both the SAT and ACT on campus this spring.

- The SAT will be held Wednesday, March 18.
- The ACT will be held Wednesday, March 4.
- **Registration Deadline for SAT and ACT: Tuesday, January 20**

To register and pay, please **complete this registration form**. If you have questions about which test is right for your student or have additional questions, please **contact Claudia Mejia, Director of College Counseling**.

Senior Recognition Ads: Deadline Is January 20

We are excited to offer you the chance to place a recognition ad for your senior in the 2026 yearbook. Full-page ads are $500, and half-page ads are $250. To create your ad, **click this link** and follow the instructions. You can also **watch this video tutorial** for assistance. All ads must be created and submitted by Tuesday, January 20, to be included in the yearbook.

Athletic Eligibility Reminder

Per conference requirements, we submit grades periodically to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). Our next grade check for eligibility will be based on grades from the Semester 1 Report Card. Those grades will be submitted to TAPPS within the next two weeks.

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 6

- *School Resumes for Students*
- *First Day of Immersions and Explorations*
- *Special Schedule:* Students report at 8:50 a.m.
- ***Dress Uniform:*** Please bring SFE Spirit Wear to change into after Eucharist
- *Epiphany Eucharist:* 9:30–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, January 7

- *Immersions and Explorations*
- *Special Schedule:* Students report at 8:50 a.m.
- *SFE Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Semester 1 Report Cards Published*
- *Alumni Panel:* 9:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym

Thursday, January 8

- *Immersions and Explorations*
- *Special Schedule:* Students report at 8:50 a.m.
- *SFE Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms

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Friday, January 9

- *Immersions and Explorations*
- *Special Schedule:* Students report at 8:50 a.m.
- *SFE Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms

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Monday, January 12

- *Immersions and Explorations*
- *Special Schedule:* Students report at 8:50 a.m.

- *SFE Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms

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Tuesday, January 13

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

Wednesday, January 14

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

Thursday, January 15

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

Friday, January 16

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

Monday, January 19

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* 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

Grief Support Group Begins This Afternoon

Beginning today—Sunday, January 4—a Grief Support Group will meet weekly on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Conference Room (CH115). The group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one and is navigating the complex emotions of grief. For more information, **contact Father David Price**.

Epiphany Service of Lights Is Wednesday

This Wednesday, January 7, we will celebrate the Epiphany Service of Lights with special music by the St. Francis Musicians. Join us for Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner ($15 per person). For more information, please call the church office at 713.782.1270.

Note About Holy Baptism

If you or your child would like to be baptized, please **contact Sally Jo Flores** in the church office for more information.

Endowment Gift for the 75th Anniversary of Our Parish

We invite all parishioners to participate in a special fundraising campaign for our Endowment Fund. This enduring resource will help sustain our mission, ministries, and outreach for generations to come. Make a contribution that reflects your gratitude and hopes, using “75” as your inspiration. Your gift—whether $75; $750; $7,500; or any other amount inspired by “75”—will help lay the foundation for an enduring future. Together, let us honor all that we have achieved and invest in all that is yet to come.

Women’s Wednesday Morning Bible Study Resumes January 14

NOTE: This study is on hiatus for the holidays and will resume on January 14. Women of all ages and life stages are welcome to join us for Bible study, which

meets Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We 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 Sunday, January 25.

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 is 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:** 1 Thessalonians
  - **Location:** La Madeleine (Except on second Tuesday of each month, when group meets in St. Francis Episcopal 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. (Resumes Wednesday, January 14)
  - **Study:** TBA
  - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
  - **Contact:** **Allison Devlin**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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