

News for the Week of January 18

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

The Lord's eyes watch over every person's path, observing all their ways. —Proverbs 5:21

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.

Reminder of Upcoming Important Dates

- **Monday, January 19:** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No school)
- **Wednesday, January 28:** LS/MS/US Late Start (Regular drop-off is available. Please note that PS does not participate in this Late Start, and their schedule remains unaffected.)
- **Monday, February 9:** All School Late Start (No regular drop-off; all divisions and all classes begin at 10:00 a.m.)
- **Monday, February 16:** Presidents' Day Holiday (No school)

This Is Us Cultural Festival: Sign Up to Participate + Submit a T-shirt Design

SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

We are excited to be hosting our annual *This Is Us* Cultural Festival on Sunday, March 22, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. **Click here** for event details and to sign up to represent your

country. We had over 30 countries represented last year and are looking forward to even more this year!

T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION 2026
Join us in creating the official T-shirt design for the St. Francis *This is Us* Cultural Festival 2026! We're looking for artwork that celebrates our diverse school community and brings cultures together through creative expression. Our goal is to have a T-shirt design that represents the spirit of international unity and cultural celebration. Your artwork should capture the joy of different cultures coming together as one school community.

This competition is open to all divisions. **Get detailed information on the "Global Unity Through Art" T-shirt design competition.**

Congrats, *Shrek* Company, on 23 Award Nominations!
We are blessed to have such talented students at St. Francis, and it shows! Congratulations to the cast, crew, and creative team of *Shrek* on receiving 23 Tommy Tune Awards nominations! **View the list of nominees.**

Re-enrollment Opens on January 30
Online re-enrollment contracts will be released in the Parent Portal on Friday, January 30. You must submit the re-enrollment contract and the deposit by Tuesday, February 10, in order to save your student's spot for the 2026–27 school year. All spots not reserved by current families will be offered to new students through the admissions process. Questions about re-enrollment? **Reach out to Jennifer Glover**, Head of Admissions and Enrollment Management.

Shine On St. Francis Gala: Silent Auction and Spring Sign-Up Parties!
Our silent auction AND Spring Sign-Up Parties will go live at 10:00 a.m. this Wednesday, January 21. You can preview the Spring Sign-Up Party selection and see what's new this year by clicking here.

Thursday: Volunteers Needed to Help Sort Uniform Donations
Parent volunteers are needed to sort uniform donations the morning this Thursday, January 22. **Click here to sign up!**

From the Nurses' Desk: Tips for Staying Healthy When the Flu Is Spreading

During flu and cold season, the nurses want to do everything possible to keep our St. Francis students healthy. Please **click here** to learn more about the flu and ways to help prevent it from spreading. Also, please make sure your child is fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. If you have any questions, please contact the nurse on your child's campus.

Primary School

Helpful Primary School Reminders

- Please be mindful of the posted 10 mph speed limit when driving on campus and refrain from using your cell phone while entering and exiting the carpool line. Also, please have your child remain seatbelted until unloaded during morning carpool. We kindly ask that children not peek out of the sunroof, as we never know when a vehicle may need to stop unexpectedly. We appreciate your partnership in helping keep everyone safe during carpool.
- Please label all sweatshirts, sweaters, and outerwear with your child's name.

Save the Dates: PS Grandparents and Grandfriends Days Are February 26–27

Save the dates for Primary School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days! The formal invitation will be sent later this month.

- **Primary II:** Thursday, February 26, 8:45–9:45 a.m.
- **Primary I:** Friday, February 27, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- **Pre-Primary:** Friday, February 27, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 19

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* No School

Tuesday, January 20

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

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Wednesday, January 21

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

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Monday, January 26

- *Pajamarama Ingathering Starts*
- *Open Library*

Tuesday, January 27

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

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Wednesday, January 28

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

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Friday, January 30

- *Pajamarama Ingathering Ends*
- *PS Pajamarama:* Wear pajamas or Spirit Wear; student-only event

Lower School

Dad's Club: Morning Carpool Crew

Calling all dads! Dr. Collins's Morning Carpool Crew is back for the spring semester. Volunteer to help us spread some early-morning cheer at Lower School carpool on the following Fridays: January 23, February 20, March 20, and April 10. We'll gather at 7:15 a.m. and start opening doors at 7:30 a.m. You'll be on your way by 8:15 a.m.

- **Click here** to sign up and be part of the fun!

- Want to join Dad's Club and stay up-to-date about our upcoming events and volunteer needs? **Sign up for our email list.**

Author Tonya Duncan Ellis to Visit February 4 + Order Signed Books by January 23

On Wednesday, February 4, author Tonya Duncan Ellis will be speaking to students in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. She will be sharing her picture book *They Built Me for Freedom: The Story of Juneteenth and Houston's Emancipation Park.* Told in the park's voice with vibrant illustrations, this story is an ode to the struggle, triumph, courage, and joy of Black America.

If you would like to order a signed copy of *They Built Me for Freedom*, please **fill out this order form** before Friday, January 23. Orders are open to students in any grade level.

Reminder: Cool-Weather Uniform

With cooler weather here, jackets and sweatshirts are needed most mornings. Please remember that only St. Francis jackets and sweatshirts are to be worn inside the building and in Chapel.

Reminder: Adult Must Sign in Late/Returning Students

For security purposes, all students who are tardy or returning from appointments must be *accompanied* to the front office and signed in by an adult guardian. Please do not send students in alone.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Spring Sports

Registration is now open for St. Francis Sports Association spring T-ball, softball, and volleyball.

- **Click here to register for T-ball and softball.**
- **Click here to register for volleyball.**
- Please **email the St. Francis Sports Association** if you have any questions or concerns.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 19

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* No school

Thursday, January 22

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Friday, January 23

- *Car Door Dads:* 7:30–8:00 a.m.

Monday, January 26

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Wednesday, January 28

- *Late Start:* 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 29

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Friday, January 30

- *ERB Parent Zoom Meeting (Grades 3–4):* 9:00–10:00 a.m
- *Step Forward Day (Fourth Grade to Fifth Grade):* 2:30–3:00 p.m. in the HBR; students only

Middle School

Check Your Inbox: Semester Update Emailed January 13

On Tuesday, January 13, the Middle School Office sent an email containing information about a Sixth-Grade Field Trip this Wednesday, January 21; Houston Food Bank trips

on Monday, February 2, and Tuesday, February 3, for the entire Middle School; and exams and activities during the last week of school. You may also **view the email here**.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Spring Sports

Registration is now open for St. Francis Sports Association spring sports, including volleyball.

- **Click here to register for volleyball.**
- Please **email the St. Francis Sports Association** if you have any questions or concerns.

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.
- Please check the length of all uniform pieces, as many students have grown since August.

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.” Devices that are discovered with students during the school day are kept in the Middle School Office.

Please Check Lost and Found: Unclaimed Items Will Be Donated

The gym locker rooms were cleared out over Christmas Break, and we have a ton of unlabeled clothing (mostly boys). These items are hung in the Lost and Found closet by the fifth-grade stairs. Unclaimed items will be donated after two more weeks. Please come check for your unlabeled things. (And please take the time to label all uniforms!)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 19

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* No school

Tuesday, January 20

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Wednesday, January 21

- *“A” Day*
- *Grades 7–8:* Regular Uniform
- *Grade 6:*
    - **Field Trip to San Felipe de Austin:** 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; students should arrive on campus at 7:00 a.m. for a prompt departure by 7:30 a.m.
    - **Field Trip Attire:** Students may wear Spirit Wear shirts with uniform bottoms; dress for outdoor weather with comfortable shoes

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Thursday, January 22

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

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Friday, January 23

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*
- *Eighth-Grade Shadow at Upper School:* 8:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Monday, January 26

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

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Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

- *Late Start:* Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.
- *Special Schedule*
- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Thursday, January 29

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

Friday, January 30

- *"B" Day*
- *St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*

Upper School

Summer Pre-College Programs: Start Planning Now!

With many summer-program deadlines in January through April, now is the time to explore options! Whether your student wants to dive into an academic interest, gain work experience, or try something new, summer offers valuable opportunities for growth and discovery.

- **View summer planning resources.**
- Questions? Please **contact Claudia Mejia, Director of College Counseling**.

Dilly Letter Jackets to Visit on January 26

If you lettered in athletics, fine arts, or as a student trainer this fall and/or winter, and you are interested, please stop by SLC Room 109 during lunch on Monday, January 26.

Dilly Letter Jackets will be here, and can measure you and provide forms for you to take home.

- There is no obligation to purchase a letter jacket.
- If you lettered last year, but did not purchase a jacket, you are still eligible to order one.
- Stop by Mr. Baber's office or **email him** with any questions.

SAT and ACT: Register by Tuesday

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.

- **ACT Testing Date:** Wednesday, March 4
- **SAT Testing Date:** Wednesday, March 18
- **Registration Deadline for ACT and SAT:** 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**.

Balfour Visiting Tuesday: View Class Rings and Senior Gear

Balfour will be on campus this Tuesday, January 20, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. to display class rings and senior gear. All rings and senior gear must be ordered online via **this link**.

Senior Recognition Ads: Deadline Is Tuesday

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 this Tuesday, January 20, to be included in the yearbook.

Save the Date: US Grandparents and Grandfriends Day Is February 26

Mark your calendar! For students in grades 9 and 12 only, Upper School Grandparents and Grandfriends Day is Thursday, February 26, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. The formal invitation is coming soon.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 19

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* No school

Tuesday, January 20

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *US Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Balfour Visit/View Junior and Senior Class Rings:* 12:00–1:00 p.m. in Nau Dining Hall

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Wednesday, January 21

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

Thursday, January 22

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

Friday, January 23

- *"A" Day*
- *Special Schedule*
- *Eighth-Grade Visit to the Upper School*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *US Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in Crum Gym

Monday, January 26

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Tuesday, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

- *“B” Day*
- *Special Schedule*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Late Start:* Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 29

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, January 30

- *“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, January 31

- *US Winter Formal:* 8:00–10:30 p.m. in Crum Gym

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

February 18: Ash Wednesday Services

Begin your Lenten journey that leads to the cross and the joy of the resurrection with the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, February 18. The first day of Lent is a special day of Holy Obligation. Services will be held at 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

March 1: Lenten Choral Evensong

On Sunday, March 1, at 5:00 p.m., join us for a choral evensong for the second Sunday of Lent in place of our regular 5:00 p.m. Eucharist, performed jointly by the choirs of St. Francis Episcopal Church and St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Under the direction of Keith Lathrom, director of music at St. Martin's, and organist Matthew Dion, the choir will offer beautiful selections of psalms, canticles, hymns, and anthems of our church, including Howells's *Collegium Regale* and Vierne's "Kyrie" from *Messe Solennelle*. Due to the Lenten observance, there will be no organ recital preceding the service.

Join Us for Wednesday Evening Programs

Join us on Wednesdays this spring for 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, dinner prepared by our wonderful Chef Alfredo ($15/person), and interesting programs. We hope you'll join us!

First Communion Classes Begin February 1

Our First Communion classes begin Sunday, February 1, offering children a joyful and meaningful way to grow in faith as they prepare to receive the Holy Eucharist. Classes are for second graders and older, with parents and families invited to share in this special milestone. For more information, **email Allison Devlin**.

Grief Group Meets on Sunday Afternoons

A Grief Group meets weekly on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. in the Bride's Room. Grief takes many forms. It may follow the death of a loved one, but it can also arise from illness, major life changes, broken relationships, or other profound losses. For more information, **contact Father David Price**.

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.

Women's Bible Study Meets Wednesdays

Women of all ages and life stages are welcome to join us for Bible study, which meets Wednesdays at 9:30 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. In our small groups, we will read and discuss the book of James. For more information, **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** in the church office. Classes 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** needs **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.
    - **Study:** James
    - **Location:** St. Francis Church Parish Hall
    - **Contact:** **Allison Devlin**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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