WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of January 25

All School

School Closed Tomorrow—Monday, January 26—Due to Inclement Weather

Due to inclement winter weather in the Houston area, school is closed tomorrow—Monday, January 26. Stay safe and warm!

This Week's Bible Verse

Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature. —Romans 12:2

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 Late Start Carpool Times on January 28

This Wednesday, January 28, is Late Start for Lower, Middle, and Upper School. Late Start does not apply to Primary School students, and their school day schedule is not affected. Parents have two options for carpool arrival. If your child needs care before 10:00 a.m., you may drop off at your regular arrival time. If your child does not need care before 10:00 a.m., you may drop off your child at the later carpool time designated for Late Start. Parents must drop off their child during one of these two carpool times, as staff will not be on carpool duty in between these two blocks of time.

- **Lower School:** Early drop-off begins at 7:00 a.m., and regular carpool is 7:30–8:00 a.m. Students will be supervised in the Dining Hall. Late Start carpool: 9:30–10:00 a.m. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.

- **Middle School:** Early drop-off begins at 7:00 a.m., and regular carpool is 7:30–8:00 a.m. Students will be supervised in the Dining Hall. Late Start carpool: 9:30–10:00 a.m. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.
- **Upper School:** Regular carpool: 7:30–8:30 a.m. Students will be supervised by staff in the Student Life Center on the grand staircase. Late Start carpool: 9:30–10:00 a.m. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.

Shine On St. Francis Gala: Silent Auction and Sign-Up Parties Are Live!

Silent Auction, including our beloved parent and teacher-hosted Sign-up Parties, is open and will run through Wednesday, February 4, at 10:00 p.m.

- **Click here** to place your bids on the fantastic Silent Auction packages and Sign-up Parties!
- While you're on the bidding page, you can also preview the unbelievable items that will only be available in our Live Auction and on the Big Board at Gala on February 7.
- Don't forget to purchase raffle tickets for our Golden Ticket Golf Cart! Tickets are $100 and are available for purchase by clicking the golden ticket package at the top of the bidding page. Or, increase your odds with a 5-pack of tickets for $350! Tickets will be available for purchase until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 7. The winner will be drawn at Gala and you do not need to be present to win!

If you have an issue with registering or viewing items on the bidding website, please contact **Lauren Sutherland**.

Save the Date: US/MS Dance Concert Is February 5–6

The St. Francis Upper and Middle School Dance Concert, *Unstoppable Motion*, premieres on Thursday, February 5, and Friday, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Don't miss the chance to witness the energy and passion of young artists as they take the stage and bring their artistry to life!

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.**

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.**

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 26

- *School Closed Due to Inclement Weather*

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:* Student-only event
- *Primary II Field Trip to Deliver Pajamas:* 12:15–2:00 p.m.; student-only event

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Monday, February 2

- *Open Library*

Tuesday, February 3

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

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Wednesday, February 4

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

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Saturday, February 7

- *St. Francis Gala*

Lower School

Author Tonya Duncan Ellis to Visit February 4

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.

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 26

- *School Closed Due to Inclement Weather*

Wednesday, January 28

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

Thursday, January 29

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *Step Forward Day (Fourth Grade to Fifth Grade):* 2:30–3:00 p.m. in the FAC; students only

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Friday, January 30

- *ERB Parent Zoom Meeting (Grades 3–4):* 9:00–10:00 a.m

Monday, February 2

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Thursday, February 5

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Friday, February 6

- *LS/MS Lunar New Year Celebration:* 2:00–2:30 p.m. in the Piney Point Gym; students only

Middle School

This Week in Middle School Chapel
Click here for devotionals to use at home that connect to Chapel this week.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

- **Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12**
- **Song Leaders:** Fifth-Grade Choir
- **Ushers:** Greer Cook, Dylan Dudum, Quinn Epstein, Clementine Fillman
- **Acolytes:** Lily Levens, Margo Lovoi
- **Crucifers:** Ava Bowman, Alice Bray
- **Readers:** Drew Ehnes, Clay Fuqua

- **Homilist:** Rev. Katie Mitchell

This Week: CANstruction Can Collection Begins

We are pleased to announce that CANstruction, the annual Middle School Ingathering of canned goods, will be returning to St. Francis. We will begin collecting canned goods during Advisory this week. Students will work in advisories to design a sculpture they will then build on Wednesday, February 25.

Please make sure that all cans have a label, are not expired, and are not dented, as cans will be donated to a local food bank immediately following the event. Last year, we collected just over 3,500 cans. Let's see if we can top that this year!

January 27: Finding Presence in a Digital Age—A Morning for Parents

Is your family "overconnected," yet feeling distant? Join us for a grace-filled discussion on safeguarding our homes from digital noise and reclaiming the spiritual discipline of presence. Rooted in Scripture, this discussion aims to offer wisdom on navigating phones and social media with intentionality and faith. We will move beyond "rules" to explore how we can model Christ-centered connection in a distracted world.

- **What:** Table Talk With the Chaplain: Finding Presence in a Digital Age
- **When:** Tuesday, January 27
- **Time:** 8:05–8:50 a.m.
- **Where:** The Bridal Room (located in the Chapel Narthex)

Come for coffee, community, and practical spiritual guidance for your family's journey.

January 29: ERB Results Will Be Released

Middle and Lower School ERB results will be released this Thursday, January 29, at 4:00 p.m. To view your student's results, please visit your Veracross portal. Click "Classes & Reports" for each of your students to locate the PDF document containing the scores.

Spring Sports Begin February 2

Spring sports will begin on Monday, February 2. Please note the following:

- All students in grades 6–8 may try any sport on February 2 and Tuesday, February 3.
- On Wednesday, February 4, students must finalize their athletic choice and remain with their chosen sport for the duration of the spring season.
- To allow for adequate coaching coverage for all teams and classes, no changes to other sports or to Middle School PE will be granted after February 4.

- Spring sport exemptions must be requested no later than February 2.

Houston Food Bank Trip: Important Details

Rev. Katie Mitchell has arranged a wonderful service opportunity for all of our Middle School students at the Houston Food Bank, in alignment with our mission of creating People for Others. In order to participate, students need to be registered with the Houston Food Bank by a parent. **This Google Form** contains instructions and a link to the food bank's registration site. A photo is **NOT** required in the registration form. You will need to complete the Google Form and a Houston Food Bank registration form for each child who is attending.

In order to arrive at the food bank in time for our work shift, please adhere to the following schedule:

- **Monday, February 2:** Seventh- and eighth-grade students
  - Arrive on campus at 7:00 a.m. for departure shortly after.
  - Students will return to campus by 12:30 p.m. for lunch and class time until 2:40 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 3:** Fifth- and sixth-grade students
  - Arrive on campus at 7:00 a.m. for departure shortly after.
  - Students will return to campus by 12:30 p.m. for lunch and class time until 2:40 p.m.

Note: All Middle School students will be participating in this service opportunity, and they will earn a minimum of 3.5 hours of service time for this work. There will not be morning classes on the day that the grade level is assigned to serve at the food bank, as the faculty will be attending with their advisories to serve as chaperones.

Phone Policy Reminder

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 keep phones in their backpacks throughout the day, nor 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. As per the handbook, parents may be required to collect the phone from the office if students continue to keep their devices with them in violation of the policy.

Uniform Reminders

With cooler weather here, jackets and sweatshirts are needed most mornings. There are several reminders that should be noted:

- 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.

Eighth-Grade Recognition Ads in Yearbook: Deadline Extended to January 30

Eighth-grade parents, we are excited to offer you the chance to place a recognition ad for your student in the 2026 yearbook.

- Half-page ads are $250. Please be aware that we are currently only offering half-page ads for eighth graders.
- 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 Friday, January 30, to be included in the yearbook.

For questions, please **contact Monica Gutierrez**.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 26

- *School Closed Due to Inclement Weather*

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*

Monday, February 2

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Grades 5 and 6:*
    - **Regular Schedule**
    - **MS Chapel:** 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
- *Grades 7 and 8:* Field trip to Houston Food Bank; arrive on campus at 7:00 a.m. for prompt departure

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Tuesday, February 3

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Grades 5 and 6:* Field trip to Houston Food Bank; arrive on campus at 7:00 a.m. for prompt departure
- *Grades 7 and 8:* Regular Schedule

Wednesday, February 4

- *"A" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*

Thursday, February 5

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

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Friday, February 6

- *"A" Day*
- *Special Schedule*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*
- *MS/LS Lunar New Year Celebration:* 2–2:30 p.m.

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**.

Senior Recognition Ads: Deadline Extended to January 30
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 Friday, January 30, to be included in the yearbook.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 26

- *School Closed Due to Inclement Weather*

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

Monday, February 2

- *"A" Day*
- *Special Schedule*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Montgomery Women's Center Presentation:* 11:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m. in Crum Gym

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Tuesday, February 3

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

Wednesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 5

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

Friday, February 6

- *"A" Day*
- *Special Schedule*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *US Eucharist:* 9:55–10:55 a.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

March 21: Join Us for a Lenten Quiet Morning

On Saturday, March 21, in this quiet morning of devotion, exploration, and conversation, we will consider our friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We'll think on Jesus' gifts offered day to day, and blessing beyond imagining for eternity. We'll explore the story from John 11:1–45 about Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—Jesus's friends from Bethany—from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the St. Clare Chapel and CH115.

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**.

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!

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**.

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 using the "Prayer Requests" link on the **St. Francis Episcopal Church home page**.

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.