WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of August 23

All School

Explore St. Francis's Cornerstone Virtues Through Our Bible Verse of the Week

As we begin the 2026–27 school year, we invite our school community to reflect on God's Word through our weekly Bible verse series. Throughout the year, we will examine St. Francis's four Cornerstone Virtues—Faith, Dignity, Courage, and Scholarship—by focusing on one virtue each quarter. For the first quarter, we will center our hearts and minds on our faith in Christ.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE VERSE

"Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith." — Hebrews 11:1–2

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.

Note From the Nurses: Complete the Magnus Health File + Bring in Emergency Meds

The nurses are looking forward to a wonderful year with your child! Please do the following to help us keep your child healthy while they are in our care:

- Complete the Magnus Health file before **Monday, August 24**. Update any changes during the year and notify us.
- **Emergency medications (asthma inhalers, EpiPens, and oral emergency medications) need to be in the clinic no later than August 24.**
- Let us know when your child is sick, so we can monitor the class/grade.

- Please be sure your child carries a water bottle, so they can stay well-hydrated during the day. **Learn about the benefits of staying hydrated throughout the day.**

HoCo: Save the Date + White Out T-shirt Orders Open!

HOMECOMING IS SEPTEMBER 21–25
Mark your calendar: HoCo is September 21–25! Support our student-athletes and enjoy pep rallies, sports, food, and fun all week as we count down to the Varsity Football game on Friday night, September 25.

ORDER YOUR WHITE OUT T-SHIRT NOW
This year, our White Out T-shirt was designed by one of our Upper School students. Profits from sales will be used to benefit Junior Class Prom in 2028. (More info to come.)

Order your HoCo White Out T-shirt now!

Join the SFE Dads' Club + Help Grill August 28

Join the SFE Dads' Club and get involved with upcoming events! The Dads' Club will be grilling for the football games, and dads are encouraged to sign up to help. A general information meeting is also coming soon, so keep an eye on *Wolf Watch* and emails from the Dads' Club for more details!

- **Join the SFE Dads' Club.**
- **Sign up to help grill for the Friday, August 28, football game.**

Booster Club: First General Meeting Is September 3

The Booster Club will have its first general meeting of the year on Thursday, September 3, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on Piney Point Campus. Come see what's going on in Booster Club, and join us as we back the Pack!

Shop the St. Francis Spirit Store

The Spirit Store on Piney Point Campus will be open every Monday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the school year.

- **You can also shop online here.** Orders placed online will be ready to be picked up from the Spirit Store, the Primary School Office, or the Upper School Office on the next Wednesday after you place your order.
- Check *Wolf Watch* for news on restocked items!
- For any questions, **please contact Annie Hartigan**.

St. Francis Parents Organization News

WHO'S SFPO? YOU ARE!
Every St. Francis parent is automatically part of the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO), the volunteer group that helps bring our school community to life. From Booster Club and Friends of Fine Arts to faculty appreciation and school traditions, SFPO is all about connection, community, and school spirit. Whether you volunteer often or are just getting started, we'd love to welcome you.

You can read more about SFPO by clicking here.

SFE MOMS' NIGHT OUT BINGO IS SEPTEMBER 2
You're invited to the first SFPO event of the year, SFE Moms' Night Out Bingo!

- **Date:** Wednesday, September 2
- **Time:** 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Houston Racquet Club
- **Purpose:** Join us for fun and fellowship as we kick off the new school year!
- **Prizes:** Festival parking spot, Christmas poinsettias, breakfast cards, and more!
- **Registration:** **Click here to register.** Registration will close Friday, August 28.

DONATE USED UNIFORMS
Due to the recent switch to FlynnO'Hara Uniforms, SFPO does not have the current inventory to host an August Uniform Resale this year. You can always donate used St. Francis uniforms at the front office or during carpool dropoff.

- Any DENNIS, Tommy Hilfiger, and Parker uniforms you drop off will be donated by the school.
- Donated FlynnO'Hara uniforms will be sorted and saved for a potential sale.

SFPO will announce a sale later in the year, so stay tuned!

Primary School

Helpful Primary School Carpool Reminders
Here are some helpful reminders to keep carpool running smoothly and efficiently:

- **After Morning Carpool:** Morning carpool ends at 8:15 a.m. At this time, a Primary School staff member will direct you to the driveway in front of the Primary School Office, where you will park and walk your child in through the front door.
- **Display Your Carpool Sign:** During afternoon carpool, please display your blue or yellow carpool sign on your driver's side dashboard. This will help ensure we get everyone filtered into the correct carpool line.

- **Remain in Your Vehicle:** We kindly ask that you remain in your car during carpool. Our faculty members will load and unload your child.
- **Position Car Seats Safely:** Whenever possible, we ask for car seats to be placed on the passenger side of the back seat. If you are dropping off multiple children, it is helpful to have the youngest child seated on the passenger side.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 24

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 25

- *Primary School (PS) Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; students only

Wednesday, August 26

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; students only

Monday, August 31

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 1

- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend

---

Wednesday, September 2

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend

---

Monday, September 7

- *Labor Day Holiday:* No school

Tuesday, September 8

- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend

---

Wednesday, September 9

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary I parents are invited to attend

Lower School

Morning Drop-off Reminders

Early Bird Drop-off begins at 7:00 a.m. Students should not be dropped off prior to this time, as there is no staff supervision for students until 7:00 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 24

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *Lower School (LS) Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Wednesday, August 26

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 27

- *Dress Uniform*

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

Monday, August 31

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

Wednesday, September 2

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 3

- *Dress Uniform*
- *LS Honor Code Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.; students only

Middle School

Curriculum Corner: Assistance Tools

In order to support student learning and organization this year, there are resources available to all students:

- **Student Planner:** All students received a copy of the school planner from their advisory teacher on the first day of school. Use of a paper planner is expected, and teachers set expectations for their use in each class. We ask that you encourage your students at home to review the planner on a regular basis to assist with completing work on time and scheduling study sessions for assessments.
- **Morning Tutorials:** Tutorials are held from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m. every morning except Tuesdays, so students can seek assistance from teachers. Students are not required to schedule a visit with their teachers if they need help, though a heads-up email to the teacher can be beneficial. Tuesdays are the only day when a student should schedule a time to meet the teacher before school, as there can be faculty meetings that make teachers unavailable on that day.

Handbook Corner: Uniform Reminders

As we begin the school year, we need assistance from home to ensure that students are arriving at school in properly worn uniform attire each day.

- **Check Skirt and Short Lengths:** Please check the length of skirts or shorts. Skirts and shorts should be index-finger length. Undergarments or black spandex privacy shorts should not extend below the length of shorts or skirts.
- **Wear Approved Uniform Bottoms:** Only FlynnO'Hara Uniform bottoms should be worn. Khaki shorts or pants that are not Flynn O'Hara brand are considered out of dress code.
- **Wear Belts When Required:** Belts should be worn on shorts or pants that have belt loops.
- **Keep Shirts Tucked In:** Shirts should be worn tucked in, except on Spirit Wear Fridays.
- **Purchase New Items From FlynnO'Hara:** FlynnO'Hara is the only place to purchase new uniform items. They are very responsive to orders, and they are working hard to fulfill our needs. **Visit the FlynnO'Hara website.**

Table Talk with the Chaplain: A Parent Gathering for the Journey of Raising a Middle Schooler

A year of faith, dignity, courage, and scholarship—for them, and for us.

We hope you will join this gathering for parents to walk this middle school season together: honest conversation, shared Scripture, and space to share the wild and wonderful adventure of raising a middle schooler.

Join us for our first gathering, Coming to the Table: The Posture of the Year, on Monday, August 24. We will meet in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Bride's Room on Piney Point Campus from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

All parents welcome—come as you are!

Middle School Service Hour Requirements

As part of our commitment to community engagement, all middle school students are required to complete service hours each year:

- **Fifth Grade:** 10 hours
- **Sixth Grade:** 10 hours
- **Seventh Grade:** 15 hours
- **Eighth Grade:** 20 hours

Students who go above and beyond will be recognized with special awards at **25, 50, 75, and 100+ hours**. We encourage students to find causes they're passionate about and make a real impact in our community!

We will continue to use MobileServe this year to track the hours your child accumulates as they build their service résumé. Look for a link to download the app soon. For questions about logging or submitting service hours, **contact Rev. Katie Mitchell**.

Middle School Athletics Dismissal Times and Locations

Please see the list below for the fall sports dismissal times and locations. To help with carpool lines, we ask that you do not arrive earlier than the scheduled pickup time for your student's sport.

Sport	Pickup Location
Cross-Country	Piney Point Campus
Field Hockey	Couper Campus
MS Volleyball (Boys and Sixth-Grade Girls)	Piney Point Campus
MS Volleyball (Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Girls)	Couper Campus
MS Cheerleading	Piney Point Campus
MS Football	Piney Point Campus

Smart Families: Empowering Families to Safely Navigate Technology

St. Francis Middle School and Upper School are excited to partner with **Smart Families** this school year to bring educational programing on neuroscience and physiology to both parents and students, exploring how we can navigate all forms of information technology in healthy ways. Smart Families' mission is to empower families with the practical support and the leadership required to change the status quo, and we are proud to join them in advancing digital wellness across our school community.

We are excited to share the **August *Be Smart* newsletter** (available in **English**/**Spanish**) from Smart Families. Stay tuned to *Wolf Watch* for details on upcoming parent and student programming events!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 24

- *"B" Day/Special Schedule*
- ***Dress Uniform***

- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *Middle School (MS) Opening Eucharist Chapel:* 9:40–10:40 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

---

Tuesday, August 25

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Early Faculty Meeting:* No morning tutorials

Wednesday, August 26

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 27

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

Friday, August 28

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

Monday, August 31

- *"A" Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *MS Chapel:* 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

---

Monday, August 31–Thursday, September 3

- *Eighth-Grade Trip to Pali*

Tuesday, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 2

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 3

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *MS Chapel:* 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

---

Friday, September 4

- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*
- *No School for Eighth-Grade Students or Teachers*

Upper School

****NEW THIS YEAR** Table Talk With the Chaplain: A Parent Gathering for the Journey of Raising a High Schooler**
A year of letting go, walking alongside, and being formed ourselves.

Parenting a teenager is its own kind of formation—for them, and for us. This year, we're launching a new gathering for parents to walk this season together: honest

conversation, shared Scripture, and space to be pastored through the joys and struggles of raising a high schooler, not just to manage them.

Join us for our first gathering, Letting Go: The Posture of the Year, on Tuesday, August 25. We will meet in the Black Box on Couper Campus from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.

All parents welcome—come as you are, coffee in hand.

Senior Family College Info Night Is August 26

Please mark your calendars for our Senior Family College Info Night on Wednesday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is for seniors and their families and will provide an overview of the college application timeline, important deadlines, expectations for the year, and the resources available through the College Counseling Office. Questions? Please **contact Claudia Mejia**, Director of College Counseling.

College Representative Visits Begin September 2

Each year, college representatives from across the country visit St. Francis to connect with our students and share insights about their institutions. These visits are only for students in grades 10–12, who can **sign up through Scoir**. Juniors and sophomores will meet with College Counseling next week to review sign-up steps and the schedule of representative visits. **View the list of college-representative visits currently scheduled for September** (as of August 20).

Smart Families: Empowering Families to Safely Navigate Technology

St. Francis Middle School and Upper School are excited to partner with **Smart Families** this school year to bring educational programing on neuroscience and physiology to both parents and students, exploring how we can navigate all forms of information technology in healthy ways. Smart Families' mission is to empower families with the practical support and the leadership required to change the status quo, and we are proud to join them in advancing digital wellness across our school community.

We are excited to share the **August *Be Smart* newsletter** (available in **English**/**Spanish**) from Smart Families. Stay tuned to *Wolf Watch* for details on upcoming parent and student programming events!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, August 24

- *Gray Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 25

- *Red Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *US Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, August 26

- *White Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- *Senior Family College Info Night:* 6:30–7:30 p.m. in Nau Dining Hall

---

Thursday, August 27

- *Blue Day*
- *Regular Uniform*

Friday, August 28

- *Gray Day*
- *SFE Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *US Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Saturday, August 29

- *Sophomore Retreat:* Sophomore parents, please see the email sent by Harold Baber on August 19 for details

---

Monday, August 31

- *Red Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 1

- *White Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, September 2

- *Blue Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *College-Representative Visits Begin for Grades 10–12:* **View the list of upcoming college-representative visits**; students must **sign up through Scoir**
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 3

- *Gray Day/Special Schedule*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Fall Pep Rally:* 2:50–3:20 p.m. in Crum Gym

Friday, September 4

- *Red Day*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *US Honor Code Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship and Family-Focused Events
Please join us Sunday in the Parish Hall for coffee, light bites, and fellowship after the 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. services. We look forward to meeting you soon!

SUNDAYS AT ST. FRANCIS

- **8:00 a.m. in St. Clare Chapel:** Holy Eucharist Rite I
- **Infant and Toddler Care:** Babies six weeks and up can enjoy playtime, music, and Bible stories in the nursery of the Parish Hall building. Open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **9:00 a.m. in the Church**
  - *Worship:* Contemporary music/Holy Eucharist Rite II
  - *Let it Shine! Children's Bible Breakout:* All children Pre-K to middle school are invited.
- **10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall**
  - *Lighthouse: Expressions in Art*
  - *Children's Art/Crafts*
- **11:00 a.m. in the Church:** Holy Eucharist Rite II with Traditional Music and Choir
- **5:00 p.m. in St. Clare Chapel:** Holy Eucharist Rite I

MAM's 2026 Back-to-School Campaign

The Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) Back-to-School Campaign began in August and continues through the end of September. Every year, MAM assists over 6,000 at-risk Spring Branch ISD elementary school children; $50 provides new school clothes for a child.

- Donations should be made payable to St. Francis Episcopal Church with "MAM Back-to-School" on the memo line and placed in the Sunday collection plate or mailed to the church.
- For more information, **contact Heather Burkhart**.

Men's Fellowship and Study Meets Thursdays

The Thursday Men's Fellowship and Study meets from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. in the Church Conference Room (CH115) for breakfast and discussions. The group is currently studying the Gospel of Matthew. Each week is a standalone discussion, so join us to make new friends and reacquaint with old ones. For more information, **contact Jason Martinez**.

Women's Bible Study Resumes September 2

You're invited to join other women for the Women's Bible Study and Fellowship. Our fall study will run for 12 Wednesdays, from September 2 through November 18, at 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We are studying the Old Testament books of Daniel and Esther using this study guide: *Life Lessons From Daniel & Esther: Faith Under Pressure* by Max Lucado. Order your book now. For more information, **contact Allison Devlin**.

St. Francis Community Nights: Wonderful Wednesdays Start September 9

Need a jolt of inspiration? Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays starting September 9. This midweek worship and fellowship will kick off with Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Clare. Our clergy staff will rotate to celebrate, preach, and offer a short 30-minute program after dinner. Enjoy a simple meal from various local restaurant sources ($15 per person).

We want to foster the opportunity for sacrament, good news, fellowship, and learning. The emphasis is on the experience of community. Please **RSVP to Chrissy Kana**.

First Communion Classes Start September 13

Children in second grade and up are invited to participate in First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the beautiful sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

- First Communion Classes begin on Sunday, September 13, and a parent meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on this day. Additional classes will be held on the following Sundays: September 20 and 27; October 4 and 18; and November 1.
- A parent meeting and class service project/practice will be held Saturday, November 7. First Communion Sunday is November 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Click here to register for First Communion Classes.

For questions, please **email Khristina Ballard**.

First Responders Sunday Is September 13

On Sunday, September 13, come to the 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour for breakfast with our local first responders. We will pause to say thank you to our first responders and honor the men and women who choose to serve our community as dedicated police officers, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, and dispatchers. We will recognize first responders at both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

September 13: Fall Family Bingo Bash

Celebrate fall with bingo and pizza at St. Francis. The fun starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. **RSVP here.** Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for kids, with a $50 maximum per family.

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.

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.

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 under "Connect" 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:** *Christianity's Family Tree* by Adam Hamilton

    - **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:** Resumes September 8
    - **Location:** St. Francis Episcopal Church Parish Hall
    - **Contact:** **Sally Jo Flores**
- Thursday Men's Fellowship and Study: Every Thursday at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
    - **Study:** Gospel of Matthew
    - **Location:** St. Francis Episcopal Church Conference Room (CH115)
    - **Contact:** **Jason Martinez**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Wednesdays at 9:30–11:00 a.m.
    - **Study:** Resumes September 2
    - **Location:** St. Francis Episcopal Church Parish Hall
    - **Contact:** **Allison Devlin**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
    - **Study:** Resumes September 13
    - **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**. On the main menu, select "Worship," then "Watch Live" to go to the church's YouTube channel. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.