WOLF WATCH

WEEKLY E-NEWS

News for the Week of September 13

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." —1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (CEB)

CHAPLAIN'S NOTE: THE GIFT OF EACH DAY

The other day in the lunch room, a middle school student prayed this: "Thank you, God, for a day that wasn't promised to us." I thought this was such a wise, yet simple prayer coming from someone with such limited life experience. The statement recognizes each day for the gift that it is, despite what it may bring our way. The manner in which we live our lives these days brings with it such busyness that even the most faithful of us can at times forget to slow down long enough to notice the beauty in the gift of each day. May we each make that prayer our own in the coming week, praying, *Thank you, God, for a day that wasn't promised to us. Amen.*

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.

Homecoming Is September 25 + Preorder Homecoming Food Now

We have fun planned for the entire week of Homecoming. More information about all the festivities can be found in **this all school email**. See you at the game!

- **Preorder your meals from the Pit Room BBQ** to enjoy at the Varsity Football game on Friday, September 25. We have new offerings this year and want to make sure you reserve your meal ASAP.

- **Sign up to help** make HOCO 2026 a success and join us as we Back the Pack. Every helping hand makes a difference, and we appreciate our amazing St. Francis community!

Alumni Homecoming Reception Is September 25

Calling all alumni! Join fellow alumni and friends for the Alumni and Special Friends Homecoming Reception on Friday, September 25, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Student Life Center on Couper Campus. Enjoy food, drinks, and time to reconnect before the big game, then head to the Alumni Tent to cheer on our Wolves!

- **RSVP** by Friday, September 18.
- **View the full invitation.**

Save the Date: Picture Day Is September 28

Picture day for all divisions is Monday, September 28. Stay tuned for more information on ordering directly from our vendor, Inter-State Studios.

Are You Following St. Francis?

St. Francis is on Facebook and Instagram!

- **Follow us on Instagram (@StFrancisHouston).**
- **Follow us on Facebook (St. Francis Episcopal School).**

Be sure to follow Athletics and Fine Arts on Instagram, as well!

- **Follow Athletics on Instagram (@Athletics_StFrancisHouston).**
- **Follow Fine Arts on Instagram (@Arts_At_StFrancisHouston).**

Parent Liaisons Wanted: Committee for Community & Inclusivity and People for Others

We're looking for a few parent volunteers to join our newly formed Committee for Community & Inclusivity and People for Others as Parent Liaisons. This is an open, evolving role — we're looking for parents who want to help brainstorm ideas, spread the word about our initiatives, and pitch in wherever needed as the committee's work takes shape.

No prior experience is necessary, just an interest in helping our school community grow in connection and service to others. The time commitment is flexible and can work around your schedule.

Interested in getting involved? **Email Rev. Katie Mitchell** to learn more.

People for Others September Service Day: Blood Drive Is September 26

Join us on Saturday, September 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for our September Service Day, a community blood drive. Donating blood is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to help save lives right here in our community.

Sign up for a time slot to donate blood.

We hope to see many of our families, students, and staff take part in this act of service. Thank you for helping make this drive a success!

Spirit Store: New Item Alert!

The St. Francis Spirit Store has received scrunchies and a limited number of embroidered boys' and mens' belts. They are available online and in the store. **Order online now.**

Please remember to pick up your online orders. The store is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Festival Reminders: Order T-shirts by September 18

The last day to order your Festival T-shirt is Friday, September 18. Visit the Festival website now and order your bundles, shirts, lanyards, punch cards, and cup. **Please note**: To be included on banner signage, sponsorships must be purchased no later than Tuesday, September 15. (As of publication, three are available.)

New SFPO Initiative: Moms in Prayer

Join the St. Francis Parents Organization (SFPO) on Friday, September 18, at 8:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus for the first meeting of Moms in Prayer. For questions or to submit prayer requests, please **email Jasmine Fleece**.

Primary School

Morning Carpool Safety Reminder

Please have your children remain buckled into their seats while you drive through campus during morning carpool. We kindly ask that carpool riders not hang out of vehicle windows or the sunroof. Thank you for your help in keeping everyone safe!

Come See What's Next in Your St. Francis Journey

JOIN A LOWER SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TOUR ON SEPTEMBER 22 OR OCTOBER 27
Primary School parents are invited to learn more about Lower School by attending a Lower School Admissions Tour at 9:30 a.m. on either Tuesday, September 22, or Tuesday, October 27. Please **contact Margaret Yerkovich** to reserve your spot.

STEP FORWARD TO LOWER SCHOOL IS NOVEMBER 17
Primary II parents will also have the opportunity to visit Kindergarten and experience a glimpse of Lower School life during the Step Forward to Lower School event on Tuesday, November 17.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Registration is open for the St. Francis Sports Association (SFSA) basketball season. SFSA is open to students in Primary II (age 4) through fifth grade.

- **Click here to register for the basketball season.**
- Please **email Liz Ward**, SFSA Registrar, if you have any questions or concerns.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 14

- *Primary School (PS) Reggio Parent Coffee:* 8:30 a.m. in the PS Library
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15

- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend
- *Pre-Primary Parent Information Night:* 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room

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Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

- *Primary I and II Parent Information Night:* 6:30–7:30 p.m. in classrooms

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Friday, September 18

- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus

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Monday, September 21

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

Tuesday, September 22

- *Homecoming Week:* Spirit Dress or Regular Uniform
- *PS Chapel:* 9:00 a.m.; Primary II parents are invited to attend

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Wednesday, September 23

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

Thursday, September 24

- *Homecoming Week:* Spirit Dress or Regular Uniform

Friday, September 25

- *Homecoming Week:* Spirit Dress or Regular Uniform
- *Primary II and Upper School Pep Rally:* 1:45 p.m.; student-only event

Lower School

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.

Arts & Letters: Learn More About the New Humanities Curriculum

As mentioned at Parent Information Night, Lower School is excited to implement a new humanities curriculum, *Arts & Letters*, in the 2027–28 school year! **Click here to learn a little more.**

Come See What's Next in Your St. Francis Journey

JOIN A MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TOUR ON SEPTEMBER 15 OR OCTOBER 20

Lower School parents are invited to learn more about Middle School by attending a Middle School Admissions Tour at 9:00 a.m. on either Tuesday, September 15, or Tuesday, October 20. Please **contact Kathryn Spinelli** to reserve your spot.

STEP FORWARD TO MIDDLE SCHOOL IS MARCH 30

Fourth-grade parents will also have the opportunity to visit Middle School and experience a glimpse of Middle School life during the Step Forward to Middle School event on Tuesday, March 30.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Registration is open for the St. Francis Sports Association (SFSA) basketball season. SFSA is open to students in Primary II (age 4) through fifth grade.

- **Click here to register for the basketball season.**
- Please **email Liz Ward**, SFSA Registrar, if you have any questions or concerns.

DEADLINE TONIGHT: Last Call to Order 2025–26 Shutterfly Scrapbooks for K–4

If your child was in grades K–4 last school year, don't miss this final chance to order your grade-level Shutterfly scrapbook by tonight—Sunday, September 13—at 11:59 p.m.

IMPORTANT: This book is *completely* different from the annual yearbook. These Shutterfly scrapbooks are beautiful 12" x 12" hardbound books with 46+ pages of grade-specific SFE memories, with *each grade represented in its own book*!

- **Select the Prior Grade Level:** Remember to ***order for your child's grade last year*** (2025–26 school year).
- **Online Order Link: Scrapbook Order Form**
- **Unsure Whether You Have Already Ordered?** Many parents ordered in May 2026, but ordering has been extended through September 13 by popular demand. If you are unsure whether you have already ordered, please **email Lauren Brown**.
- **General Questions:** Please **email Jessica Keegan**.

September 17: A Time to Pray and Connect

Lower School (LS) parents are warmly invited to stay after LS Chapel on Thursday, September 17, to spend some time with Mrs. Palmer and Father Wismer. We will meet in the Narthex of the church at 9:00 a.m., and spend 30 minutes getting to know one another a little better and praying. We hope you join us and begin your day with encouragement, connection, and prayer.

Dads' Club: Volunteer for Morning Carpool Crew on September 18

Calling all dads! We are seeking Lower and Middle School carpool helpers to open car doors on Friday, September 18. We'll gather at 7:15 a.m. and start opening doors at 7:30 a.m., and you'll be on your way by 8:15 a.m.

- **Click here to sign up** and be part of the fun!
- Questions? **Email the St. Francis Dads' Club.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 14

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

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.

- *Pray & Connect:* 9:00–9:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Narthex

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Friday, September 18

- *Car Door Dads:* 7:30–8:00 a.m.
- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus

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Monday, September 21

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *LS Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms

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Wednesday, September 23

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 24

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *LS See You at the Pole Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m. in the Piney Point Campus Courtyard

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Friday, September 25

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *LS/Middle School Fall Pep Rally:* 2:00–2:45 p.m. in Piney Point Gym

Middle School

Come See What's Next in Your St. Francis Journey

JOIN AN UPPER SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TOUR ON SEPTEMBER 16 OR OCTOBER 22
Middle School parents are invited to learn more about Upper School by attending an Upper School Admissions Tour at 10:00 a.m. on either Wednesday, September 16, or Thursday, October 22. Please **contact Kathryn Spinelli** to reserve your spot.

TASTE OF UPPER SCHOOL IS OCTOBER 5
Eighth-grade parents will also have the opportunity to visit Upper School and experience a glimpse of Upper School life during the Taste of Upper School event on Monday, October 5. Check your email for a separate invitation to this event.

Parent Night Slides Now Available

Thank you to the many families who joined us for Parent Information Night on September 8. As promised, here are links to the information shared that evening:

- **Whole Group Introduction**
- **Fifth Grade**
- **Sixth Grade**
- **Seventh Grade**
- **Eighth Grade**

Individual Photos on September 28: Wear Your Dress Uniform

On Monday, September 28, students will take individual photos for the yearbook and for families to purchase. Please remember to wear the Dress Uniform on this day. Fifth-grade students will take pictures before participating in PE, so they should arrive at school in their Dress Uniform.

DEADLINE TONIGHT: Last Call to Order 2025–26 Shutterfly Scrapbooks for K–4

If your child was in fourth grade last school year, don't miss this final chance to order your grade-level Shutterfly scrapbook by tonight—Sunday, September 13—at 11:59 p.m.

IMPORTANT: This book is *completely* different from the annual yearbook. These Shutterfly scrapbooks are beautiful 12" x 12" hardbound books with 46+ pages of grade-specific SFE memories, with *each grade represented in its own book*!

- **Select the Prior Grade Level:** Remember to ***order for your child's grade last year*** (2025–26 school year).

- **Online Order Link: Scrapbook Order Form**
- **Unsure Whether You Have Already Ordered?** Many parents ordered in May 2026, but ordering has been extended through September 13 by popular demand. If you are unsure whether you have already ordered, please **email Lauren Brown**.
- **General Questions:** Please **email Jessica Keegan**.

Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony Is September 14: One Car Per Family, Please

Eighth-grade parents, please join us for the Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony tomorrow—Monday, September 14—at 9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center. The ceremony will begin promptly at 9:40 a.m., and all Middle School students should wear Dress Uniforms. Limited parking is available on the Piney Point Campus, so we are asking family members to ride together so that everyone may enjoy this event with their children. (One car per family, please.)

'Let's Glow': Middle School Fall Social Is September 18

On Friday, September 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Student Council invites all St. Francis Middle School students to a campus social with games, snacks, music, and more. Make time to have some fun! Student drop-off and pickup is on the south side of campus, at the Dining Hall. Snacks and water will be provided, but there will not be a full meal.

The theme for the social is "Let's Glow." Students are encouraged to dress in neon colors for this fun event. Attire is free dress (within school guidelines):

- All shirts must have sleeves, with no inappropriate messaging (cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs).
- No immodest dress. Shorts must be at least mid-palm length.
- No tank tops, spaghetti straps, or basketball jerseys, except over a T-shirt. T-shirts will be given to students out of dress code.
- Tennis shoes are recommended.

This event is only for St. Francis Middle School students (grades 5–8); no outside guests, please. Students attending the social should be present in school on September 18.

Dads' Club: Volunteer for Morning Carpool Crew on September 18

Calling all dads! We are seeking Lower and Middle School carpool helpers to open car doors on Friday, September 18. We'll gather at 7:15 a.m. and start opening doors at 7:30 a.m., and you'll be on your way by 8:15 a.m.

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

- Questions? **Email the St. Francis Dads' Club.**

Smart Families Online Talk: September 22

Smart Families is hosting its first online talk of the school year, "When Online Spaces Turn Toxic: What Parents Need to Know." Group chats and online gaming can help young people connect. They can also create pressure, conflict, exclusion, and harmful behavior that most adults never see. Join Smart Families on Tuesday, September 22, to explore the hidden dynamics that shape children's digital lives and get practical guidance for parents. Select a session that works best for you—9:00 a.m. or noon—by using the RSVP links below:

- **RSVP for the 9:00 a.m. (CT) session.**
- **RSVP for the 12:00 p.m. (CT) session.**

Middle School Girls Are Invited to Join Clare's Company

Named for St. Clare—a woman of remarkable strength and a devoted companion to St. Francis—the Clare's Company Bible study offers Middle School girls a welcoming space for fellowship and encouragement each week. Every Friday during the lunch hour, students will dive into meaningful passages of Scripture and reflect on how ancient wisdom speaks directly to the middle school experience today. It is a wonderful opportunity to recharge the heart and build lasting friendships before heading into the weekend.

WEEKLY GATHERING DETAILS

- **When:** Fridays beginning in September (exact time to be announced)
- **Where:** Location to be announced
- **Who:** All Middle School girls

THE WEEKLY FLOW

- **Large-Group Lunch:** Students gather over lunch for a brief overview of the weekly reading.
- **Small-Group Circles:** Girls break into smaller circles for thoughtful discussion and deeper connection.
- **Chapel Send-Off:** The group reassembles for a song, closing reflection, and prayer.

Next Table Talk With the Chaplain Is September 28

Parents are invited to the second Table Talk With the Chaplain gathering, "Learning to Wait: The Practice of Discernment," on Monday, September 28. We will meet in the Bride's Room on Piney Point Campus from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

Our kids live in a world built for instant answers—but some of the most important things in life are learned in the waiting. This month, we're talking about how to help our middle schoolers build real discernment: sitting with a hard decision instead of always being handed the answer, and trusting that the waiting itself is where character gets formed.

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**.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 14

- *"B" Day/Special Schedule*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Eighth-Grade Tie Ceremony:* 9:40–10:20 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15

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

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

- *“A” Day/Special Schedule*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Middle School (MS) Honor Code Chapel:* 9:40–10:40 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary; students only

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Friday, September 18

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans/Uniform Bottoms*
- *MS Fall Social:* 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Piney Point Campus; see above for details
- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus

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Monday, September 21

- *“A” Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22

- *“B” Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms

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Wednesday, September 23

- *“A” Day*

- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *MS See You at the Pole Student-Led Chapel:* 7:30–7:45 a.m.; students only
- *Eighth Grade Visits Upper School:* 9:45–12:35 p.m.; students only
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 24

- *"B" Day*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *MS Chapel:* 9:50–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

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Friday, September 25

- *"A" Day/Special Schedule*
- *Spirit Wear for Homecoming:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
- *Lower School/MS Pep Rally:* 2:00–2:45 p.m.
- *Upper School Homecoming Football Game:* 7:00 p.m. on Couper Campus

Upper School

Upper School Hearing/Vision Screenings: September 16 and 17

St. Francis will be holding hearing and vision screenings for new Upper School students on Wednesday, September 16, and Thursday, September 17. Screenings will be conducted by St. Francis nurses who have attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Students who have corrective lenses should wear them or bring them to school.
- Screenings will take place during the school day.
- A copy of the results will be provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist.
- If you have any questions, please **contact School Nurse Madeleine Tiemann via email** or at 713.458.6445.

This Week's Chapel Servers

Here are the Chapel servers for this week's Upper School Chapels:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- **Readers:** Toryus Brantley and Lucas Buheis
- **Crucifer:** Baxter Moore
- **Acolytes:** Olivia Brierey and Mykai Byrd
- **Ushers:** Lando Ivery, Kash Killough, Simon Moore, Sofia Pace, Helen Paz, and John Stewart

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- **Readers:** Carolyn Camfield and Patrick DuMay
- **Crucifer:** Ayven Rangel
- **Acolytes:** Emma Guillemet-Howley and Brooklyn Guity
- **Ushers:** Valentina Torres, Monika Vasquez-Molina, Christopher Williams, Jas Bailey, Christopher Black, and Jayden Goff

Themed Dress-Up Days for Homecoming Week

- **Monday, September 21:** Stages of Life (Students are encouraged to dress up as different stages of life. All outfits must be school-appropriate.)
  - *Freshmen:* Babies
  - *Sophomores:* Elementary/middle school
  - *Juniors:* Soccer mom/barbecue dad
  - *Seniors:* Senior citizens
- **Tuesday, September 22:** Battle of the Holidays (Students dress up in their assigned holiday gear. Characters are allowed, as well. No face or body paint.)
  - *Freshmen:* Valentine's Day
  - *Sophomores:* New Year's
  - *Juniors:* Fourth of July
  - *Seniors:* St. Patrick's Day
- **Wednesday, September 23:** Color Clash (No face or body paint. We are also excited to welcome our eighth graders on Wednesday as they visit the Upper School!)
  - *Eighth Grade:* Blue
  - *Freshmen:* Green
  - *Sophomores:* Purple
  - *Juniors:* Red
  - *Seniors:* Pink
- **Thursday, September 24:** Teachers as Students (Students are encouraged to dress up as teachers, and teachers are encouraged to dress up as students.)
- **Friday, September 25:** White Out (Students should wear all white. Students are encouraged to wear their White Out Homecoming T-shirts that support the Junior

Class fundraiser. Shout-out to Upper School student Caroline Tcholakian for this year's White Out T-shirt design.)

Handbook Highlights

Each week, we'll shine a quick spotlight on a helpful tip from our school handbook to help keep our community informed and aligned with shared expectations. These little reminders are just an easy way to support our students and families as we navigate the year together.

AEROSOL SPRAY

The use of any aerosol spray is banned on campus, specifically, but not limited to, campus restrooms and locker rooms. If a student must use an aerosol spray on campus for any reason, prior permission must be granted by the Head of Upper School.

College Representative Visits at SFE

College representative visits are open to students in grades 10–12, who can **sign up for them through Scoir**.

- If a student has any issues registering, please **contact Jeff Hawthorne**, College Counselor.
- **View the list of currently scheduled college representative visits (as of September 9).**

Junior Class: College Info Night Is September 16

Please mark your calendars for our Junior Class College Info Night on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is for juniors and their families and will provide an overview of college admissions trends, SAT and ACT testing timelines, expectations for the year, and the resources available through the College Counseling Office. Questions? Please **contact Claudia Mejia**, Director of College Counseling.

Smart Families Online Talk: September 22

Smart Families is hosting its first online talk of the school year, "When Online Spaces Turn Toxic: What Parents Need to Know." Group chats and online gaming can help young people connect. They can also create pressure, conflict, exclusion, and harmful behavior that most adults never see. Join Smart Families on Tuesday, September 22, to explore the hidden dynamics that shape children's digital lives and get practical guidance for parents. Select a session that works best for you—9:00 a.m. or noon—by using the RSVP links below:

- **RSVP for the 9:00 a.m. (CT) session.**
- **RSVP for the 12:00 p.m. (CT) session.**

Fridays at Lunch: Bible Study on the Lawn

Students are invited to join us on Fridays at lunch for a Bible study under the sky, meeting on the lawn between Crum Gym and the Student Life Center (SLC). Inspired by our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, we'll dig into Scripture together, enjoy some fresh air, and build community—rain or shine. (If it's raining, we'll move it inside on the stairs.)

- **When:** Fridays, during lunch
- **Where:** The lawn between Crum Gym and the SLC
- **Who:** All high school students welcome—bring a friend!

Next Table Talk With the Chaplain Is September 29

Join us on Tuesday, September 29, for "A Safe Space to Fail," our second Table Talk With the Chaplain gathering in this year's parent series. We'll talk honestly about the fear of watching our kids fail—and why a little failure now might be one of the most important things we let them have.

- **Where:** Black Box on Couper Campus
- **When:** 7:45–8:30 a.m. on September 29

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 14

- *White Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* University of Chicago and Hendrix College; student registration required
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15

- *Blue Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School (US) Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Wednesday, September 16

- *Gray Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Fairfield University and University of Arizona; student registration required
- *Junior Class Meeting:* 6:30–7:30 p.m. in Nau Dining Hall
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 17

- *Red Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* University of Tulsa and Colorado College; student registration required

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Friday, September 18

- *White Day*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus
- *US Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

Monday, September 21

- *Blue Day*
- *Regular Uniform or Theme Dress-Up Day*
- *Homecoming Week*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Louisiana State University; student registration required
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22

- *Gray Day*
- *Regular Uniform or Theme Dress-Up Day*
- *Homecoming Week*
- *US See You at the Pole Chapel:* 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym

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Wednesday, September 23

- *Red Day*
- *Regular Uniform or Theme Dress-Up Day*
- *Homecoming Week*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Mercer University; student registration required
- *Eighth Grade Visit to Upper School:* 9:45 a.m.–12:35 p.m. on Couper Campus
- *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 24

- *White Day*
- *Regular Uniform or Theme Dress-Up Day*
- *Homecoming Week*
- *Student College Rep Visits:* Vassar College, Colgate College, University of Missouri, and Skidmore College; student registration required

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Friday, September 25

- *Blue Day*
- *Special Schedule*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms or Theme Dress-Up Day
- *Deadline for US Students to Submit Yearbook Cover Designs:* **View the contest guidelines here.**
- *Homecoming Pep Rally:* 1:45–2:20 p.m. in Crum Gym
- *Homecoming Game:* 7:00 p.m. at Couper Turf Field

Saturday, September 26

- *Homecoming Dance:* 8:00–10:30 p.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

First Communion Classes Continue Through November 8

Children in second grade and up are invited to participate in First Communion Classes to prepare for receiving the beautiful sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Classes began on September 13 and will continue through November 8 on the following schedule:

- **Sundays—September 20 and 27; October 4 and 18; and November 1:** All classes meet in school classroom CE208 at 10:00 a.m. except the October 4 class, which will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- **Saturday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m.:** Parent meeting/student service project and practice in school classroom CE208
- **Sunday, November 8, at 9:00 a.m.:** First Communion Sunday

For more information, please **email Khristina Ballard**.

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.

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.

Meditation Mondays Start September 14

Begin your week with a quiet moment of renewal and spiritual nourishment. Following

morning carpool on Monday, September 14, parents and staff members are warmly invited to St. Clare Chapel for 15 minutes of guided Christian meditation led by Mother Emily.

Meditation Mondays will take place at 8:55–9:10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month throughout the school year.

Instructed Eucharist Is September 20

Join Mother Emily Hylden on Sunday, September 20, to explore the wonders of our ancient, tactile liturgy. We'll pray, worship, and learn the meaning of words and actions we undertake each week. If you have specific questions about the Holy Eucharist or Sunday worship that you'd like answered, **email them to Mother Emily** beforehand for consideration!

Fall Women's Bible Study Meets Wednesdays

You're invited to join other women for the Women's Bible Study and Fellowship. The fall study meets on Wednesdays at 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. It began September 2 and runs through November 18. 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**.

Choral Evensong–Holy Eucharist Is September 27

St. Francis's fall 2026 musical programming begins on Sunday, September 27, at 5:00 p.m. with a service of Choral Evensong–Holy Eucharist. Join the Assisi Choir under the direction of Dr. Matthew Dion, Director of Music, for sung evening prayer of the Episcopal Church. This service is primarily led by the choir and features the singing of psalms, canticles, and hymns of our church. Music includes works by Gerre Hancock, Adrian Batten, McNeil Robinson, David Ashley White, George Dyson, and Everett Titcomb.

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**.

St. Francis Community Nights: Join Us for Wonderful Wednesdays

Need a jolt of inspiration? Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays, a midweek worship and fellowship that kicks off with Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Clare Chapel. Our clergy staff will rotate to celebrate, preach, and offer a short 30-minute program on "Exploring Worship" 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. If you would like to be included for dinner, respectfully **RSVP to Chrissy Kana**.

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:** 2 Corinthians
  - **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:** Teaching Discourses of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel
  - **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:** *Life Lessons From Daniel & Esther: Faith Under Pressure* by Max Lucado
  - **Location:** St. Francis Episcopal 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**. 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.