

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 11

All School

This Week's Bible Verse

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. —Mark 10:45

CHAPLAIN'S NOTE: ON DIGNITY AND PEOPLE FOR OTHERS

Where does human worth come from, and what does it look like in practice? Who matters and why? The world says that the more people who serve you, the more important you are. Jesus reverses that! If Jesus, the one with the greatest claim to be served, chooses to serve others instead, then status and the world's measure of importance can't be the measure of a person's worth.

The doctrines of *imago Dei* and the Incarnation teach us that dignity is given, not earned. Everybody's worth is conferred by God and therefore can neither be earned nor lost. Our dignity, given to us by God, is closely tied to our liberation from sin and the grip of death, which is why we are called to advocate for justice and peace in the world according to the baptismal covenant. By striving for this, we ensure that we keep the dignity of all people at the center of our work.

Because we each carry the image of God in our being, we are called in service to give of ourselves as Jesus gave of himself. In this, we are called to reflect God's own character in our service to one another, acknowledging that service is not a structure of the strong serving the weak but rather a way in which we acknowledge our shared dignity in Christ. The thing to remember is this: you matter because God made you and Christ gave himself for you. When you serve others, you are simply saying they matter just as much.

Prayer and Other Support

Use the [Care and Compassion Support Request form](#) to submit confidential prayer requests directly to the chaplains. There is also a section on the form to request specific

tangible support for yourself or others, beyond prayer, if needed.

It's Nearly Here! Festival Is October 18

St. Francis Festival is Sunday, October 18, and parking details will be sent soon. Be on the lookout!

MISSED BUYING MERCHANDISE?

Limited inventory will be available at the pop-up sale on Wednesday, October 14, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the People Place on Piney Point Campus.

DOES YOUR UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS?

Upper School students can get double hours by volunteering at Festival. [Sign up here.](#)

DADS, WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

[Sign up to help at the grill.](#)

October 18: Episcopal School Sunday

In addition to being Festival day, October 18 is Episcopal School Sunday, and you're invited to celebrate in worship at St. Francis Episcopal Church to show your support of our school and students.

- Service times are 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.
- We encourage you to wear your Festival T-shirts.
- Hear the good news and the sounds of our two school choirs. Lower School Joyful Sounds is singing at 9:00 a.m. and our Middle School Choir sings at 11:00 a.m. These talented students have been practicing for you!

Kitty's Coat Drive Begins October 18

Kitty's Coat Drive is a joint initiative of our Middle School's National Junior Honor Society students, our Upper School's National Honor Society students, and St. Francis Episcopal Church. Every division on both Piney Point and Couper campuses will join forces for Kitty's Coat Drive from Sunday, October 18, through Sunday, October 25. During this annual ingathering, we collect winter coats to donate to neighbors in need, so they stay cozy during the winter months.

WAYS TO DONATE

All gently used and new coats are welcome—you can even [order directly from Amazon via this curated link.](#) Look for collection bins near carpool drop-offs and reception areas. Donations may also be brought directly to classrooms.

Late Start on October 19

By St. Francis tradition, all students, faculty, and staff have a Late Start the day after our

annual Festival. Please save the date for Monday, October 19. Classes in all divisions will begin at 10:00 a.m. There will be no early childcare. Carpool for all divisions will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Pumpkin Donations Needed! Support Our Primary School Pumpkin Patch

Please consider donating a pumpkin of any size to our Primary School Pumpkin Patch. We will collect pumpkins during carpool on Piney Point Campus on Monday, October 19, and on Couper Campus on Tuesday, October 20.

Order Spirit Store Presale Items by October 25

Order your Spirit Store presale items online by Sunday, October 25. Items will be delivered before Christmas Break. Limited quantities are available, and all presale items are final sale—no returns or exchanges.

- **Game Day Palm Straw Hat**: This custom, wide-brimmed women's straw hat in SFE colors is created by C. Shel. One size fits all. Stop by the store to try on a sample! (\$175; 100 in stock)
- **Peter Millar Men's Jubilee Striped Polo Shirt**: This custom SFE polo shirt is available in sizes S–3XL. (\$115)

SHOP IN PERSON OR ONLINE

The Spirit Store will be open on Wednesday, October 14, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You can also **shop online**.

Celebrating Culture at St. Francis: Hispanic Heritage Month

Across all divisions, St. Francis has been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and the many cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. In the Gay Foyer, Middle School students have been teaching Lower School visitors about traditions, foods, and figures from countries across Latin America and Spain. Our library has curated a collection of books by Hispanic and Latino authors, along with profiles of notable leaders, artists, and thinkers from across these communities. Upper School students performed baile folklórico regionales, and the Piney Point Campus was filled with the sound of mariachi violins and trumpets.

As Hispanic Heritage month draws to a close, we're happy to welcome Mariachi Calmecac Jalisciense back to SFE once more, this time to Couper Campus, where they will provide our worship music for us in Chapel.

If you haven't had a chance yet, **watch this video** to catch a glimpse of what students on both campuses have been able to experience. You may recognize students and adults from our own community who have come together to share a little about these beautiful cultures and just one of their many musical contributions. ¡Bienvenidos,

Mariachi!

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

During the 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. **If your child is diagnosed with the flu, please email the nurse on your child's campus ([Abigayle Harrington](#), [Madeleine Tiemann](#), or [Fay Gant](#)).**

Primary School

Join Us for Fall Fun on October 30

Get ready for pumpkins, costumes, candy, and a little Halloween fun. Join us for a free Pumpkin Patch and Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, October 30, at 5:00–7:00 p.m. in the Primary School Pumpkin Patch, which will be located next to the yellow Primary I Cottage on Couper Campus (around the circle drive behind the Student Life Center).

For more details, please [view the email sent last week](#).

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Register by Sunday, November 15, 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, October 12

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday
-

Tuesday, October 13

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

Wednesday, October 14

- *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.
-

Friday, October 16

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

Sunday, October 18

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
 - *St. Francis Festival*
-

Monday, October 19

- *Late Start at 10:00 a.m.*
 - No Early Birds
 - Carpool runs from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.
-

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

- *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.

Lower School

Please Update Grandparent Information by October 18

Soon, we will be sending invitations for Lower School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days. Please help us by adding or updating grandparent contact information in

Veracross by **Sunday, October 18, at midnight**. Please log in to the Parent Portal, and click "My Household" in the top left corner. Click "Update Family Profile," then scroll down to the "Grandparents" section. Thank you!

Christmas Ornament Workshop Is October 24

Creating ornaments is a St. Francis tradition, and this year, instead of creating ornaments in art classes or advisories, we will host a weekend ornament workshop. Come join your art teachers on Saturday, October 24, from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Middle School Art Room on Piney Point Campus, and start getting into the holiday spirit early! Ornaments will be created to decorate the trees at St. Francis, to take home for your family tree, or to donate to a local charity.

- Interested Lower School and Middle School families, please [**RSVP using this form.**](#)
- Unable to attend? Please reach out to your divisional art teacher for additional opportunities.

Save the Dates: LS Grandparents and Grandfriends Days Are November 18–20

Lower School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days will be held in November according to the following schedule:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- **Fourth Grade:** 12:15–2:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- **Third Grade:** 8:45–10:45 a.m.
- **Second Grade:** 12:15–2:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- **First Grade:** 8:45–10:45 a.m.
- **Kindergarten:** 12:15–2:15 p.m.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Is October 29

St. Francis's Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest for all Lower and Middle School Wolves will be held on Thursday, October 29, in the Gay Foyer at Piney Point Campus.

- First time participating? [**Check out our Pumpkin Carving FAQ**](#) for a list of categories, competition rules, and more.
- Entries may be dropped off at Piney Point Campus in the Gay Foyer/Fine Arts Center Lobby during the following times:

- Wednesday, October 28, at 5:00–6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 29, at 7:30–8:30 a.m. Judging begins at 8:30 a.m. sharp!
- Please have your entry form completed ahead of time or be prepared to fill one out when you drop off your entry.
- Pumpkins must be picked up by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30.
- For any questions, [email Claire de Roode](#) or [Ashley Kingham](#).

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Register by Sunday, November 15, 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, October 12

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday
-

Wednesday, October 14

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

Thursday, October 15

- *Lower School (LS) Chapel:* 8:20–8:50 a.m.
-

Friday, October 16

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

Sunday, October 18

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
 - *St. Francis Festival*
-

Monday, October 19

- *Late Start at 10:00 a.m.:* No early drop-off for students
-

Wednesday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 22

- *LS Chapel: 8:20–8:50 a.m.*
-

Friday, October 23

- *Car Door Dads: 7:30–8:00 a.m.*

Middle School

Handbook Corner: Medication Reminders

On two different occasions recently, prescription medication has been found on the floor where Middle School students gather before school. Just a friendly reminder, students are not allowed to carry medication on their person. Medication should be taken before arriving on campus, or administered through the Health Office. This policy is for the safety of your child and other students, and it is described in more detail on page 15 of the *Middle School Handbook*. Thank you for your support.

Dive Deeper on October 20: Learn More From Dr. Ivins on What Houston Teens Are Experiencing

If you enjoyed Dr. Thomson Ivins' presentation on "What Our Teenagers Are Carrying" on October 5 and would like to learn more, mark your calendar for Tuesday, October

20, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Ivins and his team at The Council for Recovery will dive deeper into their research with Houston high school students this summer through a keynote speaker, panel discussion, and Q&A.

[Click here for additional details on the event](#), titled "What Our Teenagers Are Experiencing: What Houston Teens Told Us—and What They Wish You Knew," which will be held at The Council for Recovery.

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Creating ornaments is a St. Francis tradition, and this year, instead of creating ornaments in art classes or advisories, we will host a weekend ornament workshop. Come join your art teachers on Saturday, October 24, from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Middle School Art Room on Piney Point Campus, and start getting into the holiday spirit early! Ornaments will be created to decorate the trees at St. Francis, to take home for your family tree, or to donate to a local charity.

- Interested Lower School and Middle School families, please [RSVP using this form](#).
- Unable to attend? Please reach out to your divisional art teacher for additional opportunities.

Sixth-Grade Outdoor Learning Experience (OLE) Trip Is October 28

On Wednesday, October 28, sixth-grade students and teachers will travel to Camp Olympia for a day of outdoor learning. Students should arrive on campus at 6:45 a.m. They should have breakfast before arriving and may bring snacks for the bus ride. Medications administered at school will be sent with students for the day. Lunch and dinner will be provided, and students will arrive back to school at approximately 6:30 p.m.

WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING

Students should wear closed-toe tennis shoes (no Crocs), and bring the following items with them on the trip:

- **Water bottle**
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Snacks for the bus ride (no candy, please)

MORE DETAILS EMAILED SOON

Sixth-grade families will receive an email with more details, including information related to dietary restrictions and the medical release form ([also available here](#)). **The signed medical release form must be returned to your child's advisor by Wednesday, October 14.**

LATE ARRIVAL FOR SIXTH GRADE ON OCTOBER 29

On Thursday, October 29, sixth-grade students and teachers may arrive on campus at 9:30 a.m. and report to their advisory classrooms. Students will miss periods 1 and 4 that morning and will begin their school day by attending Chapel at 9:50 a.m. Students may also arrive at the usual time to participate in a quiet study hall, which will be held in a classroom until 9:30 a.m.

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- First time participating? [Check out our Pumpkin Carving FAQ](#) for a list of categories, competition rules, and more.
- Entries may be dropped off at Piney Point Campus in the Gay Foyer/Fine Arts Center Lobby during the following times:
 - Wednesday, October 28, at 5:00–6:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 29, at 7:30–8:30 a.m. Judging begins at 8:30 a.m. sharp!
- Please have your entry form completed ahead of time or be prepared to fill one out when you drop off your entry.
- Pumpkins must be picked up by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30.
- For any questions, [email Claire de Roode](#) or [Ashley Kingham](#).

ERB Testing: November 3–5

From Tuesday, November 3, through Thursday, November 5, ERB tests will be administered each morning from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Families of students with extended time accommodations will be contacted by our learning specialist, Iris Sherman. Students using their extended time accommodation will need to be in their testing rooms promptly at 7:30 a.m. each day.

Please avoid scheduling appointments on these three testing mornings. There will not be homework due or class assessments on these days.

Test results are used to provide valuable information about student progress. Additionally, these results are used in determining placement in English and Math courses when students apply for Honors coursework.

October 14–16: Hearing and Vision Screenings for ALL Students in Grades 5 and 7 and for NEW Students in Grades 6 and 8

Wednesday, October 14, through Friday, October 16, St. Francis will be conducting hearing and vision screenings for all students in fifth grade and seventh grade, plus any NEW sixth and eighth graders. Screenings will be conducted by SFE nurses, who

attended the vision and hearing training with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Here's what else you need to know:

- Screenings will be held during school hours.
- If your child has had any problems of which we should be aware, please email the nurse.
- 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.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- 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 concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take them to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please [contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via email](#) or at 713.458.6128

Please Update Grandparent Information in Veracross by October 18

The week of October 5, we will be sending invitations to Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Middle School students in sixth and eighth grades. Please help us by adding or updating grandparent contact information in Veracross by Sunday, October 18, at midnight. Log in to the Parent Portal, then click "My Household" in the top left corner. Click "Update Family Profile," and scroll down to the "Grandparents" section. Thank you!

Grades 6 and 8: Grandparents and Grandfriends Day Is November 18

Save the date! Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Middle School students in grades 6 and 8 will be held on Wednesday, November 18, from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m.

Parent Presentation on October 21: Nutrition and How to Help Your Child Live a Healthy Lifestyle

We are excited to welcome Roberta Anding to campus for Middle School student and parent presentations on nutrition on Wednesday, October 21. A lecturer in the Kinesiology Department at Rice University, Ms. Anding is a nationally recognized sport dietitian who has spent over two decades working with Houston's top sports organizations, including the Houston Texans, Houston Astros, and Houston Ballet.

- Please join us for our parent presentation on October 21 from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center on Piney Point Campus. Kindly [RSVP here](#) by Sunday, October 18.
- Student-only presentations will follow.

We look forward to having Ms. Anding share her expertise on building healthy habits, the importance of a balanced diet, and how to champion your child in living a healthy lifestyle.

Next Table Talk With the Chaplain Is October 26

Parents are invited to the next Middle School Table Talk With the Chaplain, "From Borrowed Faith, to Owned Faith," on Monday, October 26. We will meet in the Bride's Room on Piney Point Campus from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. (Enter through the front office of the school and follow the signage to the Bride's Room.)

When middle schoolers start questioning their faith, doubt can be a doorway rather than an exit. We'll talk about meeting our kids' questions with curiosity instead of alarm, and share a few simple spiritual practices that fit a middle schooler's life.

All parents welcome—come as you are.

Middle School Boys' Bible Study Meets Fridays

The SFE Boys' Bible Study offers Middle School boys a space to form meaningful relationships with one another and with the Word of God. Shepherded by Father Wismer, this group will dig into the heart of Scripture and develop a passion for God and His action in their lives.

- **When:** Fridays, during recess
- **Where:** Señora Barclay's classroom
- **Who:** All Middle School boys
- **What:** The book of Daniel

Middle School Girls Are Invited to Join Clare's Company on Fridays

The Clare's Company Bible study offers Middle School girls a welcoming space for fellowship and encouragement each week. It is a wonderful opportunity to recharge the heart and build lasting friendships before heading into the weekend. Grab your lunch and join us!

- **When:** Fridays at 12:05–1:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Picnic tables outside of the Arts hall
- **Who:** All Middle School girls
- **What:** The book of Daniel

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

By now, new Middle School students should have received an email inviting them to sign up for MobileServe to track their service hours. **An email was resent on October 8 at 4:00 p.m. to those who have not yet claimed their accounts.**

- [Here are directions for creating a new account](#) for all new students at the Middle School.
- Once your student has access to their account, questions about logging or submitting service hours should be directed to [Rev. Katie Mitchell](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 12

- *Fall Break:* Student holiday
-

Tuesday, October 13

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Rotation 2 Begins for Fifth-Grade Electives*
-

Wednesday, October 14

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Hearing and Vision Screenings for All Students in Grades 5 and 7 and for New Students in Grades 6 and 8*
 - *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus: 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
-

Thursday, October 15

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

- *Hearing and Vision Screenings for All Students in Grades 5 and 7 and for New Students in Grades 6 and 8*
-

Friday, October 16

- *“A” Day*
 - *Spirit Wear:* St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms
 - *Hearing and Vision Screenings for All Students in Grades 5 and 7 and for New Students in Grades 6 and 8*
 - *Moms in Prayer:* 8:30 a.m. in St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus
-

Monday, October 19

- *Late Start at 10:00 a.m.:* No early drop-off; students may begin reporting to advisory at 9:30 a.m.
 - *“B” Day/Special Schedule*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, October 20

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *MS Faculty Meeting at 7:30 a.m.:* No tutorials available before school, except for previously scheduled assessments
-

Wednesday, October 21

- *“B” Day/Special Schedule*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Nutrition Presentations in the Fine Arts Center*
 - 8:00–8:45 a.m.: Parent presentation
 - 9:40–10:20 a.m.: Fifth- and sixth-grade students
 - 10:30–11:15 a.m.: Seventh- and eighth-grade students
 - *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus:* 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
-

Thursday, October 22

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

Friday, October 23

- *“B” Day*
- *Spirit Wear: St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans/uniform bottoms*
- *Eighth Grade vs. Staff Volleyball Game: 2:45 p.m. in the Piney Point Gym*

Upper School

October 13: Order Letter Jackets and Graduation Caps/Gowns in Person

On Tuesday, October 13, during lunch, Dilly Campus Supply will be on campus to take letter jacket and graduation cap and gown orders. You can also [place orders online](#).

PSAT Testing and Service Day Is October 14

Attention, Upper School students and parents: Wednesday, October 14, is a half day. Students in grades 10 and 11 will take the PSAT test; students in grades 9 and 12 will participate in a service activity (see details below in this section). All tenth- and eleventh-grade students have successfully completed their exam setup and may continue preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT using the Bluebook application on their St. Francis laptops.

SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 14

- **All Students:** Arrive by 7:45 a.m. Students may leave after completing their obligations for the day.
- **Grades 9 and 12:** Service-activity buses will depart at 8:00 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m.
- **Grades 10 and 11:**
 - PSAT Exam Start Time: 8:00 a.m.
 - Exam End Time: 11:00 a.m. (standard testing) or 12:00 p.m. (testing with accommodations)

PSAT DAY PREPARATION FOR TENTH AND ELEVENTH GRADERS

- Restart and update your laptop the night before.
- Bring your fully charged SFE-supported laptop and charger.

- Bring an approved calculator.

If you have any questions, please [email Claudia Mejia](#), Director of College Counseling.

Grades 9 and 12: Service Projects on October 14

Students in grades 9 and 12 will be participating in off-campus service projects the morning of Wednesday, October 14. If you have not already done so, please complete the appropriate liability waiver and [email it to Jenn Choi](#), Upper School Counselor.

- **Ninth Grade:** Hermann Park; [view the liability waiver](#)
- **Twelfth Grade (Chang, Goldstein, and Vincent Advisories):** Houston Arboretum & Nature Center; [view the liability waiver](#)
- **Twelfth Grade (Black and Holm Advisories):** Willow Waterhole Greenspace; [view the liability waiver](#)

Summer Travel to Ecuador: Parent Information Session Is October 14

We are excited to announce that St. Francis Upper School is offering a trip to Ecuador on June 1–9, 2027. The trip will include sightseeing in the capital city of Quito, volunteering at an animal sanctuary in Puyo, and exploring nature in Baños.

Dr. Jared Staller will hold a virtual Parent Information Session at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14. This 20-minute session will provide additional details about the trip, including associated costs (which are lower than last year) and deadlines for enrollment.

- [Click here to join the meeting](#) when it starts. The session will be recorded and shared out via email, so it's okay if you cannot attend.
- Students may also pick up packets with more information from Dr. Staller.

Junior Retreat Is October 23: Complete and Return Paperwork

On Friday, October 23, eleventh graders will head to Galveston's East Beach (R.A. Apffel Park) for a day of beach cleanup service with Turtle Island Restoration Network, team bonding, and free time. Students should arrive at Couper Campus by 8:00 a.m. and will return around 6:30 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Please complete the following steps soon to prepare for the retreat:

- Complete all Magnus Health forms.
- Complete and sign [this liability waiver](#). [Email it to Jenn Choi](#), Upper School Counselor.
- Report any dietary restrictions to Ms. Choi, as well.

Register Now: ISAS Arts Festival Is April 8–10, 2027

Upper School parents, the 60th Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) Arts Festival will be held in Dallas from Thursday, April 8, to Saturday, April 10, 2027, but registration starts now. [Click here for more information.](#) We can't wait to gather all of our phenomenal St. Francis artists for this exciting tradition.

View Handout From 'What Our Teenagers Are Carrying' Parent Presentation

For key highlights from Dr. Thomson Ivins' October 5 Parent Presentation on "What Our Teenagers Are Carrying," please [view the parent handout.](#)

Earn Service Hours! Join the Family Ministry Volunteer Team

Be the light, and be a role model! Remember the older youth who made church fun for you? Now it's your turn. St. Francis Episcopal Church's Family Ministry is looking for youth volunteers to help our littlest members grow in faith, fun, and friendship.

- It's a chance to put your faith into action and serve alongside your friends. You can also earn certified volunteer hours toward high school graduation or National Honor Society.
- Scheduling is flexible: serve once a month or every week.
- [Fill out the interest form here.](#)
- Questions? [Contact Khristina Ballard, Family Ministry Coordinator, via email](#) or at 713.829.2531.

Next Table Talk With the Chaplain Is October 27

Comparison with other families, achievement culture, the constant worry about "falling behind"—the pressure on parents is real. Join us for our third Table Talk With the Chaplain parent gathering, "Growing Independence and Resisting the Status Quo," on Tuesday, October 27, from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in the Black Box on Couper Campus. We'll name that pressure honestly and talk about independence as a slow release, not a sudden cutoff, drawing on Hannah's story of entrusting Samuel to a life she could no longer oversee.

All parents welcome. Come as you are, coffee in hand.

Athletic Eligibility Reminder

Per conference requirements, we submit grades periodically to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). According to TAPPS regulations, students may not be failing more than one class or they are required to sit out from practices and games for a minimum of two weeks, or until they meet the grade requirement.

Our next grade check for eligibility will be based on grades from the Semester 1 Report Card.

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 questions about registering for a visit, please [contact Jeff Hawthorne](#), College Counselor.
- [View the list of currently scheduled college representative visits \(as of September 24\)](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 12

- *Fall Break*: Student holiday
-

Tuesday, October 13

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

Wednesday, October 14

- *PSAT Testing (Grades 10 and 11)*
 - *Service Day (Grades 9 and 12)*
 - *Half Day*: Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
 - *TAPPS Eligibility Grade Check*
 - *SFE Spirit Store Open on Piney Point Campus*: 7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
-

Thursday, October 15

- *Red Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Student College Rep Visits*: Washington University (St. Louis), Reed College, Gordon College, and Baylor University; student registration required
-

Friday, October 16

- *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 St. Clare Chapel on Piney Point Campus
 - *Chapel*: 9:40–10:10 a.m. in Crum Gym
 - *Student College Rep Visits*: Trinity University; student registration required
 - *Semester 1 Progress Reports Published*
-

Sunday, October 18

- *Episcopal Schools Sunday*
 - *St. Francis Festival*
-

Monday, October 19

- *Late Start at 10:00 a.m.*: No early dropoff
 - *Blue Day/Special Schedule*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

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

Thursday, October 22

- *White Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, October 23

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

Church

Join Us Each Sunday for Worship and Family-Focused Events

Please join us 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

Middle and High School Trivia Night Is November 1

Calling all middle and high schoolers! Grab your friends and team up for the ultimate trivia test on Sunday, November 1, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Come early for pizza and soda; trivia starts at 6:00 p.m. There will be prizes, and everyone will walk away a winner. Everyone who shows up will also be

entered into a raffle for a \$25 gift card. [Please RSVP](#) so we know how much pizza to order.

'Reeds and Keys' Concert Is October 17

On Saturday, October 17, our musical offerings continue as our Director of Music, Matthew, performs with his wife, Anne Pinkerton-Dion. The “Reeds and Keys” program features a seldom-heard but beautiful pairing of instruments—the oboe and organ—with sacred and secular selections spanning the time of Bach to the present day.

The concert begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Church.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Now for Basketball

Register by Sunday, November 15, for the St. Francis Sports Association (SFSA) basketball season. SFSA is open to boys in pre-K (age 4) through twelfth grade and girls from pre-K (age 4) through eighth grade.

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

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.

Join Mother Emily for Meditation Mondays

On the first Monday of each month throughout the school year, from 8:55 to 9:10 a.m., parents and staff members are warmly invited to St. Clare Chapel for 15 minutes of guided Christian meditation led by Mother Emily Hylden. Fill up with peace to carry you through the week.

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. For more information, [contact Allison Devlin](#).

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](#).

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).

If you would like to be included for dinner, please [RSVP to Chrissy Kana](#) to ensure we order enough food.

St. Francis Community Night

We want to foster the opportunity for sacrament, good news, fellowship, and learning. The emphasis is on the experience of community. If your group meets weekly, consider meeting on Wednesdays at the church. Enjoy church and dinner before or after your group meeting. [Let Chrissy Kana know](#) if you would like to reserve space, and be sure to RSVP for dinner.

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 Volunteer Opportunities webpage](#) 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 "Request Prayer" link at the upper right of 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. Click "Watch Online" at the upper right of the home page to go to the church's YouTube channel. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.