

WOLF WATCH

— W E E K L Y E - N E W S —

News for the Week of September 2

All School

Virtue of the Month: Honesty

The Virtue of the Month is honesty. We encourage you to ask your children what they are learning about honesty in Chapel, morning meetings, and advisory!

Show Your Spirit—Grab Your Homecoming Gear!

Homecoming Week is coming soon—it's time to gear up with a newly minted Homecoming-themed spirit T-shirt! Students may wear it every day during **Homecoming Week (October 9-14)**, plus on Friday Spirit Days afterward.



Homecoming Week will be brimming with fun events and activities, and we'll be publishing the full schedule soon. Meanwhile, [click here](#) to hop over to the Wolf Den Campus Store and **order your Homecoming spirit T-shirts today!** (Shirts will be sent home with your youngest child no later than Thursday, October 4.)

Parents' Bible Studies With the Chaplains

St. Francis dads and moms, please join us for morning Bible studies with our chaplains!

- All dads are invited to join Father Wismer to study the parables on Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway. The first meeting will be **September 6**.
- All moms are invited to join Reverend Heinemann to study the women of the Bible on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel (following Lower School Chapel). The first meeting will be **September 17**.

Admissions: Calling All Siblings + New Birthday Cutoff Dates

The Admissions Office is ready to begin receiving [new student applications](#) for the 2019-20 school year. Current families are not required to come on a group tour, however you are more than welcome to do so.

Starting with **new applicants** for the 2019-20 school year, **the birthday cutoff date is moving from June 1 to September 1**. If you have any questions about how this change affects your family, please contact Amy Whitley by phone at 713.458.6115 or [via e-mail](#).

PRE-PRIMARY

- Must be 2 by September 1 of the year entering Pre-Primary (DOB between 9/2/16 and 9/1/17)
- Must not have turned 3 before June 1 of the year entering Pre-Primary

PRIMARY I

- Must be 3 by September 1 of the year entering Primary I (DOB between 9/2/15 and 9/1/16)
- Must not have turned 4 before June 1 of the year entering Primary I

PRIMARY II

- Must be 4 by September 1 of the year entering Primary II (DOB between 9/2/14 and 9/1/15)
- Must not have turned 5 before June 1 of the year entering Primary II

KINDERGARTEN

- Must be 5 by September 1 of the year entering kindergarten (DOB between 9/2/13 and 9/1/14)
- Must not have turned 6 before June 1 of the year entering kindergarten

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is September 7

The next Wolf Wear Sale will be held Friday, September 7. Visit us in the Concessions Stand on the Main Campus from 7:45-9:30 a.m.

Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Kara Montgomery](#).

PA Mini-Directory Information Update and Order Reminder

The Parents Association directory chairs have begun working to update the directory for the 2018-19 school year. **Please note that your family information will be published in the directory as it is shown in My BackPack on the St. Francis Parent Portal.** Please confirm and update this information by **Friday, September 14.**

The printed Mini-Directory includes contact details for all faculty and staff; student listings organized by class/homeroom/advisor, including room parent and e-mail; as well as an alphabetical listing of all St. Francis families, with contact information. It is conveniently sized to fit in your purse or car!

Purchase the printed Mini-Directory from the **MySchoolAnywhere [online store](#)** or app. This is the only way to purchase the Mini-Directory. **The deadline to order is Friday, September 14.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please [e-mail the PA directory chairs.](#)

Primary School

From the Division Head

This summer I read Oprah Winfrey's book *What I Know for Sure*. In it, Oprah covers lots of foundational topics, like joy, resilience, connection, gratitude, and possibilities. She tells stories and reflects on what she knows to be true in her life. This was all prompted by her interview of the late *Chicago*

Tribune movie critic Gene Siskel in 1998. As the interview came to an end, he turned the tables and asked her, “What do you know for sure?”

This is **what I know for sure** (some tongue-in-cheek) after my first year living in Houston:

- I live (just) outside the loop ... people seem to use that as a central point to determine where everything is located. It helps to have a sense of direction and to know where everything is directionally: north, south, east, and west matter. You can't say, “I live near....” It's a big city, and I am learning how to navigate the city (with the help of Google Maps).
- There is a lot to do in Houston. The museums, restaurants, and antique shops are my favorites.
- The Astros play amazing baseball. I had the good fortune of watching Alex Bregman play at LSU, and it's hard to believe, but he's even better now! (*Geaux, Astros!*)
- The rodeo is a big deal here. I am seriously considering buying pink boots. I saw lots of them in Primary School last year and hope that they come in adult sizes, too.
- People in Texas don't seem to eat grits like they do in Louisiana, but they do eat a lot of breakfast tacos (thank you), and egg dishes always come with salsa.
- Everyone goes to H-E-B on Sunday afternoon. If I can't get there before 2:30 p.m., I have to make other plans. When you see police officers directing traffic there, it's not a good sign.

And this is **what I know for sure about St. Francis** after my first year as head of Primary School:

- People here really care about one another. Our mission of helping our students become people for others is modeled by everyone in the community. This was especially evident in what we saw after Hurricane Harvey. At this one-year anniversary, people are continuing to move forward. Their resilience is impressive.
- Being in a faith-based school is important to our families. Our worship with children is authentic and age-appropriate, and this ministry extends beyond our chapel services each week.
- Having the opportunity to share South Campus with Upper School is exciting. I have seen firsthand the work that has gone into planning and opening this new division, and I can't wait to begin our partnership with them.

- Teachers in the Primary School work really hard, and they love what they do. They are creative and always generating ideas to make our program better. I am inspired by them every day. School-wide, we are being intentional in making connections between divisions, because we know it is important that we know our colleagues. We believe that being engaged in what our students are doing now is of utmost importance, but we are also mindful of what comes next for them. There is a palpable enthusiasm and spirit in the school that is positive and uplifting.
- At St. Francis, we “*Challenge What’s Possible*.” This means stretching beyond our comfort zone, thinking differently, trying new things … and encouraging students to do the same.

What I know for sure is that this is a wonderful place for children. I look forward to the possibilities ahead for our students and school.

I hope you enjoy the Labor Day holiday. We will see you on Tuesday morning!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Join Us! Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School

Primary School parents, please join us for coffee and conversation with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

- **Tuesday, September 4**—10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library
- **Wednesday, October 3**—10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library

We hope to see you there!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

To view the Primary School Dining Hall menu, please click [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*
-

Tuesday, September 4

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *PS Parent Coffee and Fellowship With Head of School: 10:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Wednesday, September 5

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary School Homeroom Parent Meeting: 10:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, September 11

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, September 12

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, September 18

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*

- *Pre-Primary Parent Information Night:* 6:30 p.m. in the Primary School Drama Room
-

Wednesday, September 19

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
-

Thursday, September 20

- *Primary I and Primary II Parent Information Night:* 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Crum Athletic Center
-

Tuesday, September 25

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
-

Wednesday, September 26

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
-

Friday, September 28

- *Primary School Admissions Tour:* 9:00 a.m.
-

Monday, October 1

- *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (M/W/F) and Primary I*
-

Tuesday, October 2

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
- *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (T/Th) and Primary II*

Lower School

From the Division Head

Another fantastic week has passed! Thank you for working with us to help carpool run efficiently and quickly. We debriefed at our division meeting this past week and came up with some great ideas to improve the process even more.

Thank you, too, for attending our back-to-school parent meetings. We discussed some positive changes in Lower School for the new year. **You will hear more about birthday celebrations, class parties, and guest readers at Parent Information Night on Tuesday, September 11.**

One more addition to our third- and fourth-grade program will be Lunch Bunch. This is a time set aside for students who wish to attend a read-aloud book club during lunch. Mrs. McColloch and Mrs. Salinas will conduct Lunch Bunch for third grade, while Mrs. Stephenson and I will host lunch bunch for fourth grade. Students will get their lunch in the Dining Hall as usual and then join us in the library for some great reading and discussion. **Lunch Bunch will start this Thursday and will be held each Monday and Thursday after that.**

Our fourth-grade leaders were inducted to Leadership Council this past week and have many exciting opportunities to serve our division. There are three councils: Cares, Chapel, and Leadership.

- The **Cares Council** finds ways to help others and to give back to our school and community.
- The **Chapel Council** plans and runs Chapel.
- The **Leadership Council** plans and runs Alpha meeting every Friday and opens car doors during morning carpool. We have added a new responsibility to the carpool role. While the councils are meeting and planning their activities every Tuesday and Thursday morning, the students who open car doors will be assigned a kinder or first-grade classroom to assist. They may work with the teacher or support our

youngest learners in some other capacity. We are excited that our fourth graders have this opportunity to be role models and helpers and to give back to our Lower School community!

- Thank you to Mr. Kochel, Mrs. Salinas, Rev. Heinemann, Mrs. Jurick, and Mrs. Flores for sponsoring our three councils.

These first few days of school have been a time for the teachers to build community, establish norms, and promote the growth-mindset philosophy with our students; we know these practices get everyone off on the right foot. **Click [here](#) to view a short video that encapsulates our educational philosophy: we encourage our students to be lifelong learners; take risks; face adversity; and continue to grow academically, emotionally, and socially.** We shared this video with the teachers during our in-service and professional-development time together. We know it's essential for our faculty to be lifelong learners, constantly honing their craft!

Have a wonderful Labor Day, and see you around!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Join Us! Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School

Lower School parents, please join us for coffee and conversation with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

- **Friday, September 5**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex
- **Thursday, October 4**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex
- **Wednesday, October 31**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex

We hope to see you there!

Lower School Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale!

Lower School scrapbooks for last school year are now available for purchase at [MySchoolAnywhere](#). These beautiful Shutterfly memory books are grade-specific, so remember to order for your child's grade last year. With questions about how to purchase, [e-mail the Parents Association](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*
-

Wednesday, September 5

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Opening Eucharist (Pentecost)*: 8:05 a.m.
 - *Parent Coffee and Fellowship With Head of School*: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex
-

Friday, September 7

- *Spirit Dress Friday*: Students may wear a St. Francis shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms
-

Monday, September 10

- *NO Chapel*
-

Tuesday, September 11

- *Parent Information Night*: 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) and classrooms
-

Wednesday, September 12

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between August 1 and September 15 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Friday, September 14

- *Spirit Dress Friday:* Students may wear a St. Francis shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms
-

Monday, September 17

- *Social Contract and Honor Code Signing Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
-

Wednesday, September 19

- *Student Holiday*
 - *Welcome to the Den Parent Conferences*
-

Monday, September 24

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
 - *Grades 2-4 Parent Meeting:* How to help your child with homework and reading; 8:30 a.m. in the Crum Library
-

Wednesday, September 26

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
-

Friday, September 28

- *Kindergarten and Grade 1 Parent Meeting:* Early literacy; 8:15 a.m. in the Crum Library

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School families. I hope this finds you well today.

This past week, we welcomed our new parents and families to campus for Middle School New Parent Meeting. It was a pleasure to speak with our newest members of the Middle School team here at St. Francis. Our faculty and staff look forward to partnering with you all to prepare our students for the path of success in the 2018–19 school year. ***For any families that missed our meeting, we have posted the presentation on the Parent Portal.***

Middle School carpool has been running very smoothly, but I have a request for all of our parents: **please do not begin lining up for our division's carpool until 3:35 p.m.** Our students are not released from class until 3:40 p.m., and the Lower School needs our help. When we mix into their traffic flow, it inevitably holds up both carpools. **Your assistance with this will ensure a smooth traffic flow and a quick pickup for our families, so thank you all for your help.**

Speaking of our other divisions, **I encourage you all to read the Primary School, Lower School, and Upper School Wolf Watch messages each week.** Mrs. Whitley, Mrs. Christ, and Dr. Henderson pack those letters full of helpful information, and we encourage every family to read every division's letter to stay tuned to all the great things happening on both campuses.

As our faculty and staff continue to instill the social-emotional competencies of **cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control**—as well as the academic competencies of **growth mindset, perseverance, learning strategies, and academic behaviors**—I will pass along various resources related to helpful mind, brain, and education (MBE) science research so parents can learn more about what we do here at SFES. This week, please [**check out this piece of research from Harvard University**](#), which discusses intermittent collaboration. Also, I like [**this piece**](#)

[from RetrievalPractice.Org](http://RetrievalPractice.Org), which is a research-informed organization focused on better learning outcomes for all learners.

I hope our families are making progress on the all-school parent read, *The Self-Driven Child* by Dr. William Stixrud and Mr. Ned Johnson. Stay tuned for more information about coffees and conversations related to the many important topics in this great book.

I hope you all have a wonderful, restful Labor Day weekend. It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Join Us! Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School

Middle School parents, please join us for coffee and conversation with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

Fifth-Grade Families, Scrapbooks Are Now on Sale!

Was your child in fourth grade last year at St. Francis? If so, purchase your scrapbook at MySchoolAnywhere. These beautiful Shutterfly memory books are grade-specific, so remember to order for your child's grade last year. With questions about how to purchase, [e-mail the Parents Association](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*

Tuesday, September 4

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Practice for Tie Ceremony (Grade 8 Only)*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel and Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Wednesday, September 5

- *Eucharist Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Opening Eucharist (Pentecost)*: 11:05-11:55 a.m. in the Chapel
-

Thursday, September 6

- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Class Meeting/Council Explanation*: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
 - *Practice for Tie Ceremony (Grade 8 Only)*: 1:55-2:30 p.m. in the Chapel and Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Friday, September 7

- *NJHS Officers' Meeting*: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *Practice for Tie Ceremony (Grade 8 Only)*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel and Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Monday, September 10

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Convocation and Tie Ceremony*: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
 - *Convocation Reception (Grade 8 Only)*: 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Tuesday, September 11

- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Wednesday, September 12

- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
-

Thursday, September 13

- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Councils (Student Sign-ups)*: 9:15-10:00 a.m.
 - *MS Parent Information Night*: 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC) and Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

Friday, September 14

- *NJHS Meeting/Induction Preparations (Grade 8 Members Only)*: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom

- *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only)*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom
-

Monday, September 17

- *Chapel/Honor Code Signing*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
 - *High School Information Night (Grade 8 Students & Parents)*: 6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym on the South Campus
-

Tuesday, September 18

- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Wednesday, September 19

- *Student Holiday*
 - *Welcome to the Den Conferences*: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in classrooms; students and parents meet with grade-level teaching teams
 - *Costa Rica Parent Meeting*: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
 - *Europe Trip Parent Meeting*: 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

Thursday, September 20

- *Tuesday Schedule*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Council Officer Elections*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Friday, September 21

- *NJHS Meeting (All Members)*: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in the Chapel
-

Monday, September 24

- *NJHS Meeting (All Members)*: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in the Chapel
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
 - *Individual Student Pictures*: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - *NJHS Induction Ceremony*: 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
 - *NJHS Induction Ceremony Reception*: 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Gay Foyer
-

Tuesday, September 25

- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Eighth-Grade Video Meeting (Parents Only)*: 8:00-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Library
 - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Wednesday, September 26

- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - “See You at the Pole” *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Thursday, September 27

- *Fifth-Grade OLE Trip*
- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway

- *Class Meeting*: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
-

Friday, September 28

- *Fifth-Grade OLE Trip*
 - *NJHS Meeting (All Members)*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in classrooms
 - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Monday, October 1

- *ERB Special Schedule*
 - *Middle School ERB Testing*: 7:55 a.m.; students report to assigned classrooms
 - *ERB Extended-Time Testing*: 7:55 a.m. in assigned classrooms
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
-

Tuesday, October 2

- *ERB Special Schedule*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Middle School ERB Testing*: 7:30 a.m.; students report to assigned classrooms
 - *ERB Extended-Time Testing*: 7:30 a.m. in assigned classrooms
-

Wednesday, October 3

- *ERB Special Schedule*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Eucharist Chapel/Feast of St. Francis*: 10:45-11:35 a.m. in the Chapel
-

Thursday, October 4

- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders, Plus Their Dads:* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
- *ERB Makeup Testing:* 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- *Middle School Councils/Plan Homecoming:* 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms

Upper School

From the Division Head

We've had another wonderful week of learning and team building in the Upper School. This week included a science lab, cross-country practices, Spanish presentations, explorations of humanities research, math discussions, two volleyball games, computer setup, personal reflection activities, discussions about the purpose of an education, and four days of rehearsal for the fall musical (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*). The pace is definitely quickening!

As we discussed during Parent Orientation a couple of weeks ago, we want to avoid overscheduling our children/students. That said, part of the excitement of being a member of the founding freshman class is getting to be involved in the gamut of activities offered right from the beginning. Please know that we recognize that this tension exists. Please also **feel free to reach out to us for assistance as you work to determine a level of involvement that is best suited to your child's and to your family's unique set of needs and preferences.**

By the end of the day on Tuesday or Wednesday (depending on how you are calculating), we will have completed two weeks with our new high school routine. **I encourage you to find a time during this four-day weekend or the coming week to check in as a family about the experience thus far.** How much time is homework taking each night? Are there opportunities for increased student-teacher communication and support that could be accomplished during our designated tutorial times?

Recently, I stumbled upon a podcast series that I thoroughly enjoy. It's called *NAIS Member Voices* and features interviews with educators from various members of the National Association of Independent Schools. **The**

interview with Ann Klotz, head of school at Laurel School in Ohio, was particularly intriguing to me. She mentions preferring the word “sequencing” to “balance” both for her own reflections and in her conversations with students. She explains that achieving balance has been an elusive goal and frequently leaves her feeling defeated. In contrast, sequencing allows for a regular reshuffling of priorities and reinforces what researcher Carol Dweck refers to as a growth mindset. I invite you to listen to the free podcast at your convenience by [clicking here](#).

Here's to another week of growth and learning!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Join Us! Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School

Upper School parents, please join us for coffee and conversation with the head of school. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, September 3

- *Labor Day Holiday*
-

Tuesday, September 4

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*

Wednesday, September 5

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, September 6

- *Day 3 Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Eucharist: 9:50 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*
-

Friday, September 7

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Monday, September 10

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, September 11

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Parent Information Night: 6:30 p.m. in the Crum Loft*
-

Wednesday, September 12

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, September 13

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, September 14

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*

Church

Join Us for St. Francis 101

Join Father Bates on **Sunday, September 30, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room** for St. Francis 101. This is a great opportunity for new or prospective members to get to know St. Francis Episcopal Church and Father Bates as he gives an overview of our mission, ministry, and programs.

You can RSVP to [**Kathryn Adkins**](#), or just stop in, and we'll happily welcome you! The Bride's Room is located in the Narthex of the Church.

Blessing of the Animals Is September 30

Bring your dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles to our Blessing of the Animals service on **Sunday, September 30, at 4:00 p.m.** We will have a short liturgy in the church, followed by individual blessings in the courtyard. In addition to bringing your pets, we encourage you to bring donations of pet food and newspapers, which we will deliver to a local animal shelter.

Episcopal Worship Explained

What does it mean to be Episcopalian? Discover the nuances of the Episcopal faith and its liturgy and traditions in this program led by Father Bates, which will begin on **Sunday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m.** Additional dates in the series are **Sunday, October 21, and Sunday, December 2.**

If you are an adult desiring to be confirmed by the bishop in February, this series, along with a book assignment by Father Bates, will satisfy the requirements for Confirmation. Please contact [**Amy Homer**](#) if you are interested in Confirmation.

The Men of St. Francis Breakfasts Resume September 11

The Men of St. Francis monthly breakfasts resume **Tuesday, September 11**, and every gentleman of the parish is invited to come together for a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and faith-related study and discussion led by Father Bates. This year, the men will read and discuss *I Believe: Exploring the Apostles' Creed* by Alister McGrath. The group meets in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall at 8:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. Please e-mail [Amy Homer](#) for more information or to obtain a copy of this year's book.

Fall First Communion Classes Begin September 16

First Communion classes begin **Sunday, September 16**. This eight-week course is designed to prepare second-grade students to receive the Holy Eucharist. If you would like to sign up or request further information, please contact [Nichole Hilgert](#).

'The Meaning of Marriage' Starts September 23

Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that marriage does not mean "until death do us part," but merely "for as long as my needs are being met"; and that when serious differences arise, divorce is the best solution.

According to the Bible, though, these modern-day assumptions miss what marriage is all about.

In this six-session, video-based Bible study, Timothy and Kathy Keller—who have been married for 40 years—draw a **profound portrait of marriage from the pages of Scripture** that neither idealizes nor rejects the institution, but points us back to the relationship between God and man. The result is a vision for marriage that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful.

This study is for everyone, whether you are single, considering marriage, a newlywed, or part of a couple that's been married a long time!

Sessions will be held at **10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room** on two Sundays per month from September through November. Topics will include:

- “Service: Marriage Isn't about You” (September 23)
- “Covenant: Created to Make Promises” (September 30)
- “Roles: Loving Through Mutual Submission (October 7)
- “Singleness: Strengthening the Spiritual Family” (October 28)
- “Sex: The Act of Covenant Renewal” (November 11)
- “Hope: Seeing the Great Horizon” (November 18)

The Grief Group Starts in October

The Grief Group will meet for four consecutive Sundays in October from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Chapel. It is time set aside for those who are grieving to reflect on their lives, their losses, and their strengths going forward. We will use the 23rd Psalm as our guide to remember that God is with us even during painful times.

The Grief Group is a safe place to talk, cry, and laugh about the gifts we have—even when we're facing death, crisis, and trauma in our lives—while beginning to move into our new, renewed lives. Dr. Robbie Sharp, a psychologist who attends St. Francis, will lead the group. Please e-mail [Jerry Ballard](#) to sign up for The Grief Group.