

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of December 13

All School

From the Head of School

As we head into the final weeks of 2020, I think it's safe to say that we are all excited about the break and new year ahead. While it is true that many Christmas traditions have been reimagined this year, our students, teachers, and staff are still finding creative ways to celebrate the season together. It is another wonderful reminder that, even in the midst of a rollercoaster year, there is still much to be thankful for.

As always, I am grateful for our teachers who remain dedicated to our students, mission, and ethos, and feel truly blessed to be part of this community of *people for others*. I wish you all a great week ahead; a very Merry Christmas; and a Happy New Year filled with joy, love, and peace.

Sincerely,

Steve Lovejoy, MEd
Head of School

COVID Hotline: Reporting Cases After Hours

St. Francis has created a new after-hours COVID hotline that parents should call to report a positive COVID case after the school day has ended. Between **4:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.**, you may call **832.306.4519** to let us know that your student or a family member has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please save the number **832.306.4519** in your contacts. The phone will be monitored by a member of our administrative team. Once again, calling this number is the best way to get in touch with us after hours, and it will ensure that we are able to communicate quickly with the teacher(s) and parents in your child's class. Thank you for your help!

Give to the St. Francis Fund

Help make the holiday season merry and bright for our students through a gift to the St. Francis Fund. Giving to the St. Francis Fund is critical this year in light of all the challenges the year has presented. And, there are only a few short weeks left to make a tax-deductible gift in 2020. Join your community in [giving a gift](#) to the St. Francis Fund today! #SFESstrong

From the Library: Please Help Us Round Up Lost Books

The library is rounding up any lost or wayward books that may not have made their way back to the Crum Library since this past spring's school closure. There will be a St. Francis bar code on the upper left-hand corner of the book if it belongs to us. We would love to see the books back in our library!

Explore and Extend/School of Music: Register Today!

There's still time to register for Winter Break Camps, Explore and Extend spring enrichment classes, and spring School of Music lessons. For registration details, [click here](#).

Tomorrow Is the Last Day to Drop Santa a Line!

If you've seen the red mailboxes on our campuses, you know we have a direct line to the North Pole. Remember, to give Santa and his busy elves enough time to reply, please make sure your child's letter is in the mailbox by tomorrow—**Monday, December 14**—with the following information:

- Student's first and last name
- Grade
- Return address on the envelope

Thanks for helping us spread some Christmas cheer!

New Student Applications Due Tuesday

If you have a little one who will be 2 years old by September 1, they are age-eligible to apply to Pre-Primary for the 2021–22 school year! [New student applications](#) are due **by this Tuesday, December 15**—please spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

Virtue of the Month: Peace

During the month of December, the St. Francis community is focusing on peace. Our

virtue verse is Luke 2:14: “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*” You can find Virtue of the Month resources [here](#).

Table Talk: Virtue sightings—where do you see examples of peace in books, films, and life?

New Spirit Store Orders Will Be Delivered in January

Please note that, due to the Christmas holidays, any orders placed between December 3 and January 4 will not be delivered until the week of January 14.

- **Link:** <https://stores.inksoft.com/STFRANCIS HTX SPIRITSTORE/shop/home>
- **Password:** wolves

Primary School

From the Assistant Division Head

Each morning as Primary School students exit their vehicles, they are greeted with smiles, hellos, and warm wishes from the PS faculty and staff. This very intentional engagement is only one of the many expressions we show of genuine care, concern, and love for our children. Our daily goal is to nurture their minds, bodies, and hearts.

Being cognizant of the environment you provide for children is imperative at all times, but even more so during times of challenge, trauma, and stress. Purposeful planning includes, but is not limited to, how our teachers arrange their classroom environments, the literature that is shared, the language they use when speaking to the children, the intricacies of the daily schedule, and the relationships that are established.

Whether a teacher creates a small nook for a child to nestle in with a good book or an imaginative play kitchen stocked with utensils and foods that remind children of home, our Primary School faculty and staff are very intentional about providing places, spaces, and opportunities for our children that feed their hearts and nurture their emotional development.

I encourage you to take a look at [this article](#), which illustrates many of our considerations when supporting our children’s emotional development.

Warmly,

Kenyetta K. Wynn, EdD
Assistant Head of Primary School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 14

- *Primary II Nativity via Zoom: Staller at 9:45 a.m.*
 - *Primary I and Pre-Primary 3-Day Christmas Parties: Students only*
-

Tuesday, December 15

- *Pre-Primary 2-Day and 5-Day Christmas Party: Students only*
 - *Primary II Nativity via Zoom: Wiener at 12:15 p.m.*
-

Thursday, December 17

- *Primary II Christmas Parties: Students only*
 - *All PS Students May Wear Holiday Attire*
-

Friday, December 18–Monday, January 4

- *Christmas Break: Student holiday*
-

Monday, January 4

- *Primary II Christmas Tree Drop-off: 9:00–10:00 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *School Resumes*
-

Monday, January 18

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No school*

Lower School

From the Division Head

As we welcome some chilly weather and look forward to the holiday season, I wanted to let you know what we have in store for your kiddos this week at school.

Every grade level has chosen a country to learn more about in regards to holiday traditions and culture. After a bit of research, they will decorate their pod or classroom doors to share some holiday spirit from around the world.

We also are having themed days each day next week to celebrate! Know that Middle School is also doing some dress-up days, but they are slightly different from ours due to developmental differences in the students. Below are our themes for each day. If students do not wish to dress up or participate, they can wear St. Francis spirit wear and jeans or their uniform.

- **Monday, December 14:** Crazy Christmas Socks
- **Tuesday, December 15:** Christmas Attire/Ugly Christmas Sweater
- **Wednesday, December 16:** Favorite Sports Team T-shirt or Jersey Day
- **Thursday, December 17:** Pajamas and Robes (Polar Express Day)

We will also have Christmas parties in our classrooms on Thursday, December 17. The teachers are planning some fun activities, and Chef Bryce will provide us with a sweet treat. While we know we will have lots of fun, we sure miss our parent volunteers as hosts for our parties!

I also wanted to let you know that **we have a surprise for our students on Wednesday—please keep our secret!** An ice cream truck is coming to both campuses, so our kiddos will get to enjoy a sweet treat after their lunch. I know they will be so excited!

We are doing our best to keep everyone's spirits up during this challenging time, while continuing to work hard on our learning. I found [this great article](#) that might give you some fun ideas on how to help keep the holiday spirit alive, behind masks and with fewer family-and-friend gatherings.

I look forward to spending this coming week with your precious children, celebrating the joys of the holiday season. I hope you all have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year!

See you in 2021!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 14

- *Theme Week Dress:* Crazy Christmas Socks
-

Tuesday, December 15

- *Theme Week Dress:* Christmas Attire/Ugly Christmas Sweaters
-

Wednesday, December 16

- *Theme Week Dress:* Favorite Sports Team T-shirt or Jersey
-

Thursday, December 17

- *Theme Week Dress:* Pajamas and Robes (Polar Express Day)
-

Friday, December 18–Monday, January 4

- *Christmas Break:* Student holiday
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *School Resumes*
-

Wednesday, January 13

- *Student Holiday*
 - *Parent Conferences*
-

Monday, January 18

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* No school

Middle School

From the Division Head

We have a special Christmas message from Coach T this week. Best wishes to all for a safe, restful, and joyful break!

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Christmas Greetings From Coach T

It's Christmastime!

Christmas to me is the celebration of the birth of Christ. Christmas is a time for us to understand and reflect on the lessons He taught us, based on love and the vision of a God who is full of compassion and forgiveness, a vision of doing everything with a positive outlook and from a place of love. This is a season of giving and sharing.

Although we will celebrate Christmas in a different and more creative and thoughtful way this year, it is still Christmas. We will still see the baby Jesus in a manger; that hasn't changed. He is the reason for the season! This is a time to thank God for His greatest gift of all. It is a special time for us to give love and be thankful for our family and friends. It is a season of holiday traditions, enjoying those delicious dishes and desserts made with love, exchanging gifts, and playing those cool family board games (via Zoom). We will still care for each other and love each other as we always have. That hasn't changed, either.

Enjoy this season of love, and remember to be thankful for what we do have—our wonderful St. Francis community both inside and out and, most importantly, being people for others.

I send you love and many Christmas blessings. I look forward to hearing the creative ways the kids have celebrated Christmas and created new memories.

Merry Christmas!

Marion Tolon
Assistant Head of Middle School

Athletics News

While things are much different in Athletics this year, we are excited to have our students competing again this season. Our game schedules are now visible on the [school website](#). Please be sure to check back often, as there is more fluidity with schedules this year than ever before.

Coaches will continue to send weekly e-mail updates with important information about upcoming games, transportation, carpool pickup, etc. We have learned that some parents are not receiving these weekly e-mail updates. If a parent is not receiving weekly communications from one of our coaches, please [e-mail T Riley](#), director of athletics. From there, we can share this information with the appropriate people on campus to troubleshoot the issue.

Finally, please see below for livestream links to each of our competition sites. (These links are also posted on the Athletics page of the school website and on social media.)

- [Piney Point Campus Gym Livestream Link](#)
- [Crum Gym Livestream Link](#)
- [Couper Turf Field Livestream Link](#)

Go Wolves!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 14

- *Theme Week Dress: Celebrity Look-alike Day*
 - *"A" Day*
-

Tuesday, December 15

- *Theme Week Dress: Christmas Sweater Day*
 - *"B" Day*
-

Wednesday, December 16

- *Theme Week Dress:* Movie Character Day
 - *"C" Day*
-

Thursday, December 17

- *Theme Week Dress:* Christmas Pajamas Day
 - *"D" Day*
-

Friday, December 18–Monday, January 4

- *Christmas Break:* Student holiday
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *Classes Resumes*

Upper School

From the Interim Head of Upper School

On Wednesday, the Upper School carried out a St. Francis tradition that binds together all members of our student body, across four divisions. Students wore formal dress uniforms, gathered for Chapel, and signed the St. Francis Honor Code. Director of School Counseling Ted Lakoski delivered a moving homily on what it means to be an honorable person. I hope you will ask your student to tell you about this service.

The Honor Code shapes all our lives at St. Francis, starting with our youngest learners in the Primary School. They are introduced to a simplified version of the Honor Code, known as The St. Francis Way. It emphasizes the importance of four basic expectations, as follows:

- Listen carefully to teachers and friends.
- Be kind to others.
- Be safe.
- Take care of our school.

While the expectations for Lower, Middle, and Upper School are known by another name—the St. Francis Honor Code—they are really no different:

St. Francis Honor Code

As a citizen of St. Francis Episcopal School, I pledge to uphold the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi by respecting my school, myself, and my community; upholding honor; engaging in service; and striving to be courageous and faithful in all that I do and say.

St. Francis has a high standard for student honor that reflects positively on self, family, school, and community. Students are expected to be courteous and polite and to treat others with dignity and respect. Our Honor Code governs our standards for ethical and moral conduct. A system of expectations concerning one's inner character and one's moral and ethical structure, it recognizes that each of us possesses the capability to discern what is morally and ethically right and the ability to choose between right and wrong. Honor is ultimately a matter of personal responsibility.

In an Advisory assembly this week, our discussion of honor extended to each of us being a reflection of our family and our school, even when we are not on campus. Years ago, one of my friends said something similar to her three children each time they left her home. Her daily parting words to them were, "Remember, you're a Westbrook." It was important to her that her children knew that, as a family, they were all connected, and how they handled themselves in the community mattered to everyone in the family. It's like that at St. Francis. We support one another, but we also have high expectations for every member of the family. The actions of one impact all of us.

Each student and faculty and staff member has pledged to abide by the Honor Code. Like at home, our school community is at its best when we are truthful, respect one another, make thoughtful decisions, and take personal responsibility for our actions. I'm especially proud of our students and their commitment to upholding the values of the St. Francis Honor Code.

Take good care,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School/Interim Head of Upper School

Athletics News

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- [Crum Gym Livestream Link](#)
- [Couper Turf Field Livestream Link](#)

Go Wolves!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 14

- *Odd Day*
 - *Theme Week Dress: Celebrity Look-alike Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Tuesday, December 15

- *Even Day*
 - *Theme Week Dress: Christmas Attire Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
 - *US Parent Check-In: 12:00 p.m. via Zoom*
-

Wednesday, December 16

- *Odd Day*
 - *Theme Week Dress: Movie Character Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Thursday, December 17

- *Even Day*
 - *Theme Week Dress: Pajama or Ugly Sweater Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Friday, December 18–Monday, January 4

- *Christmas Break: Student holiday*
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *Classes Resume*
 - *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Wednesday, January 6

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Thursday, January 7

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Friday, January 8

- *Even Day*
- *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*

Church

Lord of the Streets/Confirmation Class Video Christmas Cards

Help the homeless of Houston and support our Confirmation class by purchasing a virtual video Christmas card.

- Each personalized Christmas greeting will include a Scripture, prayer, and blessing, along with singing by the Confirmation class. You will need each recipient's name and e-mail address.
- A link is available on the front page of the [St. Francis Episcopal Church website](#).
- Please consider making a \$10 donation per video gram. Thank you for your support!

We Are Open for In-Person Worship!

The Holy Eucharist will be offered at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. We will also offer an evening Eucharist on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing all those who are ready to return. For those who are not comfortable returning to in-person worship, we will continue to livestream our worship service on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Access the livestream via our church [website](#), [YouTube channel](#), or [Facebook page](#). Instructions for livestreaming are included at the bottom of this section.

- In-person worship guidelines are available [here](#).
- NOTE: Sunday School has started again and will be held outside to maintain safe distancing.
- Only a limited number of participants can be safely seated according to the distancing guidelines. To ensure we comply with these guidelines, please sign up each week, indicating you would like to come to worship. To do so, go to the St. Francis Episcopal Church [website](#), click "Sign Up for In-Person Worship," choose the date, and sign up to attend the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service.

Christmas Eve Services

Bring your family and renew your strength in the love and grace of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve. We will have **four Christmas Eve services on Thursday, December 24**, lasting no longer than an hour each.

We want to be sure there are seats for everyone. **Please click the link below to sign up for the service you will be attending.** If your circumstances change, you will be able to change attendance to a different service if we have not reached capacity through the sign-ups. We will do our best to accommodate all who attend. Those who have signed up will be provided first priority.

- [2:00 p.m. \(Family-Oriented\)](#)
- [3:30 p.m. \(Family-Oriented\)](#)
- [5:00 p.m. \(Family-Oriented\)](#)
- [9:00 p.m. \(Traditional Service\)](#)

St. Francis will also have a Christmas Day service on Friday, December 25, at 11:00 a.m.

All Christmas Eve services will also be livestreamed on the [St. Francis Facebook page](#) or [YouTube channel](#) if you are unable to attend in person.

Join Fr. Wismer for *The Goodnight Show* on Tuesdays

Join Fr. Wismer for *The Goodnight Show* on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. on the [St. Francis Facebook page](#). Preschoolers, younger school children, and the young at heart can enjoy music, stories, and prayers . . . and you can send in requests! It is the perfect way to relax and get ready for bed.

[Click here to watch on the St. Francis Episcopal Facebook page.](#)

Watch Let It Shine! In-Person and on YouTube

Join Mrs. Devlin for in-person Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout: All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate. Children will learn lessons from the Bible, act out Bible stories, memorize key verses from Scripture, and pray together outside following safe-distancing guidelines.

We will continue to put the Let It Shine! videos on the St. Francis YouTube channel, but we've created a dedicated channel for Let it Shine! This is a great way for us to reach children everywhere with these amazing Bible-based video teachings by Allison Devlin, our director of family ministry.

- Please share this channel with anyone you might know who has children and who's looking for entertaining, informative videos that help lead children to Jesus.
- [Click here to visit the channel.](#) **Be sure to like, subscribe, and turn on notifications!**

Teens, Join Us for GLOW!

GLOW is now meeting in-person after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service. We will meet (socially distanced) in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Middle and high school students are invited to participate in weekly lessons and discussions. A Zoom option will continue to be available for those who are unable to attend in person.

- In the current series, learn about the Nicene Creed—why we say it, and how it applies to our daily lives. You may purchase the book *Hope for Us* through Amazon.
- For further details, contact [Allison Devlin](#).

Moms, Join Us for Bible Study

The **SFES Moms' Bible Study** is on **Fridays at 11:00 a.m.**, led by **Allison Devlin**, director of family ministry. Please contact Allison via [e-mail](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Moms in Prayer

Join other mothers for a time of prayer together on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Please contact Allison Devlin via [e-mail](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Share Your Prayer Requests Online

Share your prayer requests with us using the “Prayer Requests” link on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#). Please feel free to submit prayer requests for yourself or for someone you know. All prayer requests are confidential and will not be added to the spoken prayer list, but will be prayed for by our staff and Pastoral Care Council over a two-month period.

Upcoming Events at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following events on a regular basis via Zoom. To join an event listed below, please click the provided link or copy and paste it into your web browser’s address bar. Then, enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Proverbs (Current study on the Gospel of Mark)
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651248716>
 - *Passcode required to join; e-mail Louise Richman to participate.*
- Fridays at 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
 - **Study:** *Mom Set Free* by Jeannie Cunnion
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - *E-mail Allison Devlin for meeting location*

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Lew Arend](#)
- Monthly on the second Tuesday at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (Next meeting is January 13)
 - The Men of St. Francis (TMOSF)
 - **Study:** The Gospel of Mark
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86423240761>
 - **Meeting ID:** 864 2324 0761
 - **Passcode:** sW9R20

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81068388948>
 - **Meeting ID:** 810 6838 8948
 - **Passcode:** 767200

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS—BIBLE STUDIES AND MEETINGS

- Sundays at 10:30–11:30 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** GLOW
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4394746544>
 - **Meeting ID:** 716 183 992
 - **Passcode:** 476823
- Tuesdays at 7:00–7:15 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** The Goodnight Show
 - **Contact:** [Fr. Bob Wismer](#)
 - [Facebook Livestream](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Wednesdays at 7:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Prayer Session (We read Scripture and go through a prayer cycle of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession.)

- **Contact:** [Heather Burkhart](#)
- **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72098767051>
- **Meeting ID:** 720 9876 7051
- **Passcode:** 678123
- Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081>
 - **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
 - **Passcode:** 043097
- Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Thursdays after carpool drop-off
 - **Meeting:** Prayer Session
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - *E-mail Allison Devlin to get meeting location*
- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081>
 - **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
 - **Passcode:** 043097

How to Watch Sunday Service Via Livestream

If you would like to join St. Francis Episcopal Church's **9:00 a.m.** or **11:00 a.m.** Sunday service via livestream, here's how to watch:

1. Open an Internet browser on your computer, laptop, or phone. Type in the St. Francis website—sfch.org.
2. Click on the “**Watch Live Stream**” button. Choose to watch from the website or from Facebook or YouTube.
3. Prelude music will begin on the livestream 10 minutes prior to the service to allow time for your connection and for your inspiration. If you miss the live video, a recording of the service will also be available on St. Francis's [YouTube channel](#).