

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of December 5

All School

St. Francis Fund Giving Week Is Here!

We are kicking off our first-ever St. Francis Fund Giving Week, where we will share how the St. Francis Fund impacts the lives of each of our students and supports the most critical areas of their education. Don't just take our word for it, though! Click [here](#) to listen to some of our students share what the most special part of St. Francis Episcopal School is to them.

Our goal is to inspire 100 families to give to the St. Francis Fund this week. If you have already given this year, THANK YOU. If not, help us reach our goal by [making a gift or pledge today!](#)

Sincerely,

Taylor and Blake Shaver
2021–22 St. Francis Fund Chairs

Gala Studio 52: Make Sure You're on the List (Invitation Deadline Extended!)

This **Wednesday, December 8**, is the deadline to be included in our 2022 Gala invitation, which will be mailed out in early January. This year, Gala proceeds will help with renovations to the Dining Hall, among other important priorities.

- February 5 will be here before you know it, so book your babysitter and prepare to hit the dance floor while helping to make a difference for our school! If you haven't reserved your seat at the party, [click here](#).

- Can't make it, but would still like to support us? Consider a family or corporate sponsorship. There are several opportunities available [here](#). (Scroll down to view sponsorship opportunities.)

Missing Items? Check the Lost and Found Closet!

With the cold weather upon us, many sweaters, jackets, and hoodies have found their way to the Lost and Found closet.

- If your student is missing anything, please check the Lost and Found closet, which is located under the Middle School stairway next to the Crum Library entrance.
- Most items are not labeled, so please add "name labels" to your Christmas list!
- Please [email Ali Williams](#) with any questions.

Volunteers Needed for the All-School Christmas Concert

We are excited to see the return of our All-School Christmas Concert!

- This concert will feature Lower School students in grades 1–4; Middle School students in grades 5–8 who are enrolled in music elective classes (Trimester 2); and the Upper School Choir.
- The special evening will take place on **Monday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Chapelwood United Methodist Church** (11140 Greenbay St.).
- If you would like to volunteer, please [click here](#).

Spirit Store: Items Now in Stock!

IN-STOCK items have been added to the 2021–22 online [Spirit Store](#).
(**Password:** wolves)

- In-stock items are pre-decorated, available for purchase online, and have a fast delivery time. These items could make good stocking stuffers if purchased before Monday, December 13.
- While the global manufacturing supply chain continues to face challenges, we are slowly seeing the return of inventory. We appreciate your continued patience.

PRO TIPS!

- The store link works best with a Google Chrome browser, and will stay open and active until May.
- Families have two options for receiving purchases. (Delivery for both options will take around 10–14 business days.)

- **Delivery to school to your student's homeroom teacher or advisor.** December 16 is the last school delivery date before the holidays; school deliveries will resume on January 6.
- **Shipped to your address.**
- There are **no returns or exchanges**, so be sure to check out the size charts to order the correct size. Please email [Christie Crummel](mailto:Christie.Crummel) to coordinate access to samples.

School of Music Recitals Are This Afternoon and Next Sunday

Upcoming School of Music recitals will be held in St. Francis's Fine Arts Center as follows:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 1:00 p.m.—Students of Sylvia Ouellette
- 1:45 p.m.—Students of Marc Garvin
- 2:30 p.m.—Students of Vessy Smith

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 1:00 p.m.—Students of Sarah Bouse and Callie Denbigh
- 2:00 p.m.—Students of Dr. Andrew Nishikawa

Explore and Extend Registration Opens Tuesday

Registration for spring enrichment and School of Music lessons through Explore and Extend will open this Tuesday, December 7, at 10:00 a.m. Course offerings are posted on the [Explore and Extend page](#) on the school website. (The registration link is on the right-hand side of the page.)

Registration for Christmas Break Camps Reopens Tuesday

Christmas Break camps will be offered again this year—Monday, December 20, through Wednesday, December 22. Registration opened on November 29, but it has been down since Friday to allow for setup of spring Explore and Extend registration. Registration through St. Francis's [Explore and Extend page](#) will be available again starting this Tuesday, December 7.

Please see below for camp details.

HOLIDAY FUN CAMP FOR PRIMARY I AND II

Dates: Monday, December 20–Wednesday, December 22

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location: Couper Campus

Cost: \$150

Lead Teacher: Señora Claudia Schoelman

Description: Join us for three days of holiday magic, making crafts, baking Christmas treats, playing games, and dramatic play!

CHRISTMAS MAKE AND TAKE CAMP

Grades: K–4

Dates: Monday, December 20–Wednesday, December 22

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location: Piney Point Campus

Cost: \$150

Description: Join us for three mornings filled with making special surprises and treats, playing games, and winning prizes! Each morning will include a cooking project, art, and a special science project. Weather permitting, students will have snack and recess on the playground.

COOKIE SPECTACULAR!

Grades: 4 and up

Dates: Monday, December 20–Wednesday, December 22

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location: Piney Point Campus

Cost: \$175

Description: Join Amy Chandler to learn the art of decorating sugar cookies and Chef Maria Cruzalegui to learn to create delectable Christmas treats. Participants will enjoy both the science of cooking and the elegance of creating edible works of art—and will come home with treats to share.

WINTER BASEBALL DEFENSIVE CAMP

Grades: Grades 6 and up

Dates: Monday, December 20–Tuesday, December 21

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Location: Couper Campus

Cost: \$60

Led By: Coach Mike August and Coach Koby Clemens

Equipment Needed: Glove, hat, baseball pants, turf shoes, and metal spikes or molded cleats

Description: Players will participate in a series of drills for infielders, outfielders, and catchers. Basic and advance fielding and throwing drills will cover skills such as glove work, footwork, throwing to bases, and game-like situations. SFE baseball program philosophies will also be covered.

CHRISTMAS BREAK BASKETBALL HOOP FUN

Grades: 2–5

Dates: Monday, December 20–Wednesday, December 22

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location: Crum Athletics Center on Couper Campus

Cost: \$120

Led By: Coach Harold Baber

Description: Join us for three mornings of FUN with basketball. Participating students will engage in fun games, drills, and friendly competition in our Crum Athletics Center!

CHRISTMAS GIRLS' LACROSSE CAMP

Grades: 5–8

Dates: Monday, December 20–Tuesday, December 21

Time: 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Location: Couper Campus

Cost: \$100

Led By: Coach Jamie Platt

Description: Bring your stick, goggles, and mouth guard, and join Coach Platt for two mornings of fun with lacrosse!

Commemorative Cookbook: Share Your Recipes with Us!

The holidays are here—a wonderful time when beloved recipes are made and shared! This year's Gala Special Projects Committee is asking families, grandparents, alumni, and teachers to dust off, dig out, and share their culinary best for a commemorative cookbook celebrating 70 years of St. Francis. We are looking for recipes pertaining to the following categories:

- Drinks and appetizers
- Soups and salads
- Entrées
- Sides
- Desserts
- Breads and breakfast

Please consider submitting your family favorite by clicking [here](#) and following the online instructions for the chance to have your recipe included in this special fundraising endeavor. We can't wait to see all the delightful entries that roll in!

Support the Home Team!

The Athletics Booster Club invites you to come out and support our Wolves at this week's home games. We will be selling concessions at all games—most items are \$1. Exact change is much appreciated. [Click here](#) and scroll down to see the game schedule for the week.

COVID Dashboard

St. Francis is updating the following COVID Dashboard weekly to track the number of

active cases and total year-to-date cases for students and faculty/staff. This dashboard can also be found on the Parent Portal.

COVID Dashboard	
STUDENTS	FACULTY/STAFF
ACTIVE Cases	ACTIVE Cases
Total Active COVID+ Students	Total Active COVID+ Faculty/Staff
1	1
YTD Cases	YTD Cases
Total YTD COVID+ Students	Total YTD COVID+ Faculty/Staff
47	14

*Updated 12/02/21 at 10:30 a.m.

Primary School

From the Assistant Head of School

Last Sunday was the beginning of the season of Advent. This time in the church calendar year is one of waiting and preparing, though shopping reminders—which start earlier each year—make it harder to honor Advent without rushing directly into the Christmas season.

When my children were young, I fantasized about the family traditions we would establish for the season. Like the social media trend, “How it started, and how it’s going,” it was probably humorous to watch my attempts to make this time of waiting and preparing perfect for my children. I had collected dozens of treasured Christmas books, and I envisioned us reading a different one each night, cuddled up together in our Christmas pajamas. My daughter, however, continued to insist on her favorite book at the time: *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food*. My son plucked the collector ornaments that my mother bought for him off the tree. They were miniature replicas of vintage pedal cars. I actually cried when he played with them like Hot Wheels cars and broke the wheels off!

And so it went.

My children are now 34 and 24. The memories we cherish most are of moments that disappointed me at the time. The Berenstain Bears book about nutrition, which still baffles me as a choice for a 4-year-old, will always be a keeper in our children’s book collection. And the little pedal cars without wheels are still among our most treasured ornaments each year. I am thankful for the clear picture in my memory of the little boy who loved Christmas that year. Along with my children, I grew up, too. I was trying too hard and not honoring the beauty of the waiting and preparing in this season of Advent.

Whatever your traditions, and regardless of the age of your children, I hope you are enjoying moments of reflection with your family. In our often complicated and fast-paced lives, finding time to be together is what matters most.

Advent blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

Christmas Dress for PS Students on December 17

In celebration of the holiday season, Primary School students are invited to wear Christmas-themed clothing on Friday, December 17. If a student prefers not to wear holiday dress that day, he or she may wear regular uniform dress instead.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 6

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, December 7

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II attends in person
 - *Explore and Extend Spring Registration Opens Online*
-

Wednesday, December 8

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person
-

Monday, December 13

- *Primary School Open Library:* 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library
 - *Primary I Christmas Parties:* 1:30 p.m.
-

Tuesday, December 14

- *Chapel:* Students only
 - *2-Day and 5-Day Pre-Primary Christmas Parties:* 1:30 p.m.
-

Wednesday, December 15

- *Chapel:* Students only
 - *3-Day Pre-Primary Christmas Parties:* 1:30 p.m.
-

Thursday, December 16

- *Primary II Nativities and Parties*
 - **Hughes:** 9:00 a.m.; party at 9:30 a.m.
 - **Staller:** 10:00 a.m.; party at 10:30 a.m.
 - **Wiener:** 11:00 a.m.; party at 11:30 a.m.
 - **Owens:** 12:00 p.m.; party at 12:30 p.m.
-

Friday, December 17

- *Christmas Dress:* Students may wear Christmas-themed clothing or Spirit Wear
-

Monday, December 20–Monday, January 3

- *Christmas Break:* School closed
-

Tuesday, January 4

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

Wednesday, January 5

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

Friday, January 7

- *Primary School Epiphany:* Students only
-

Monday, January 10

- *Explore and Extend Classes Begin*
 - *Primary School Open Library:* 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library
-

Tuesday, January 11

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

Wednesday, January 12

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

Monday, January 17

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

Tuesday, January 18

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary School Pajamarama Ingathering Begins*
-

Wednesday, January 19

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary School Pajamarama Ingathering*
-

Thursday, January 20

- *Primary School Pajamarama Ingathering*
 - *2-Day Pre-Primary Pajamarama in Class: Students only*
-

Friday, January 21

- *Primary School Pajamarama Ingathering Ends*
 - *Primary School Pajamarama: Students only*
-

Monday, January 24

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, January 25

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

Wednesday, January 26

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

Thursday, January 27

- *Fathers and Friends for 2-Day and 5-Day Pre-Primary: 8:15 a.m.*
-

Friday, January 28

- *Fathers and Friends for 3-Day Pre-Primary: 8:15 a.m.*
-

Monday, January 31

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*

Lower School

From the Assistant Head of School

Last Sunday was the beginning of the season of Advent. This time in the church calendar year is one of waiting and preparing, though shopping reminders—which start earlier each year—make it harder to honor Advent without rushing directly into the Christmas season.

When my children were young, I fantasized about the family traditions we would establish for the season. Like the social media trend, “How it started, and how it’s going,” it was probably humorous to watch my attempts to make this time of waiting and preparing perfect for my children. I had collected dozens of treasured Christmas books, and I envisioned us reading a different one each night, cuddled up together in our Christmas pajamas. My daughter, however, continued to insist on her favorite book at the time: *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food*. My son plucked the collector

ornaments that my mother bought for him off the tree. They were miniature replicas of vintage pedal cars. I actually cried when he played with them like Hot Wheels cars and broke the wheels off!

And so it went.

My children are now 34 and 24. The memories we cherish most are of moments that disappointed me at the time. The Berenstain Bears book about nutrition, which still baffles me as a choice for a 4-year-old, will always be a keeper in our children's book collection. And the little pedal cars without wheels are still among our most treasured ornaments each year. I am thankful for the clear picture in my memory of the little boy who loved Christmas that year. Along with my children, I grew up, too. I was trying too hard and not honoring the beauty of the waiting and preparing in this season of Advent.

Whatever your traditions, and regardless of the age of your children, I hope you are enjoying moments of reflection with your family. In our often complicated and fast-paced lives, finding time to be together is what matters most.

Advent blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

From the Music Teacher

Christmas is coming, and our Lower School students are looking forward to celebrating the holiday season in concert!

- Kindergarten students are sure to put a smile on the faces of their audience as they perform on **Wednesday, December 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center.**
- On **Monday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.**, the much-anticipated All-School Christmas Concert returns to **Chapelwood United Methodist Church.** Combining our Lower School voices with those of Middle and Upper School enhances a feeling of community and strengthens the spirit of the season.

While preparing for the concert, students develop multiple aspects of their musicianship, including in-tune singing, vocal technique, musical literacy, critical-thinking skills, and listening skills. Accurate singing leads to confident, enjoyable music-making experiences.

Students increase their understanding of musical sounds through aural, visual, and physical responses. We play many types of listening games that involve these types of responses.

Older students appreciate games that challenge them to respond aurally, visually, and physically. To develop and strengthen their understanding of melody, students play "Which Shape?" This is a game that asks students to listen to a melody (a series of higher and lower pitches), while picturing that melody's highs and lows as a corresponding line that creates a contour or shape. As they listen to the teacher play a melody on the piano, students answer the question "which shape?" by choosing from a set of lines on the board.

As students develop their own listening and vocal skills, making music with others becomes even more rewarding.

Please join us in celebrating both the miracle of Christmas and the hard work our Lower School children have put into preparing for each of these performances!

Musically yours,

Melissa Jurick
Lower School Music Teacher
Director, Joyful Sounds Choir

Holiday Dress Dates for Lower School Students

In celebration of the holiday season, Lower School students are invited to wear holiday-themed clothing on the following dates:

- **Monday, December 13:** Green and red
- **Tuesday, December 14:** Christmas attire/ugly holiday sweater
- **Wednesday, December 15:** Santa's workshop
- **Thursday, December 16:** Favorite Christmas movie character
- **Friday, December 17:** Uniform with robes/slippers (Polar Express Day)

If a student prefers not to wear holiday dress on a designated day, he or she may wear regular uniform dress that day instead.

'Tis the Season! Christmas Concert Dates

December is here, and that means lots of music! Students are busy practicing and preparing for the holiday season ahead.

KINDERGARTEN CONCERT

The kindergarten concert will be **Wednesday, December 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center.**

GRADES 1–4 CONCERT

Grades 1–4 will be performing along with Middle and Upper School students

on **Monday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Chapelwood United Methodist Church.** Students will be going by bus to rehearse at Chapelwood that morning.

We hope you can join us for these festive holiday events!

Fourth-Grade Parent Meeting Is Tuesday

This Tuesday, December 7, at 7:45 a.m., we will host a meeting for parents of fourth and fifth graders to hear about our planning for academics and schedule enhancements. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 6

- *St. Nicholas Eucharist for Kindergarten Through Grade 4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
-

Tuesday, December 7

- *Student Step Forward for Kindergarten Through Grade 3*
 - 8:20 a.m. in classrooms
-

Wednesday, December 8

- *Kindergarten Christmas Concert*
 - 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
-

Thursday, December 9

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating December 5–January 1 birthdays
-

Monday, December 13–Friday, December 17

- *Holiday Dress Week*: Please see details above
-

Monday, December 13

- *Chapel for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating December birthdays
 - *Grades 1–4 Christmas Concert Rehearsal*
 - 8:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Chapelwood United Methodist Church
 - *Grades 1–12 Christmas Concert*
 - 6:30 p.m. at Chapelwood United Methodist Church
-

Thursday, December 16

- *NO Chapel*
-

Friday, December 17

- *Lessons and Carols*: 8:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center; student-only event
 - *Polar Express Day*: Bring robe and slippers to wear over uniform
 - *Christmas Parties*
 - *Christmas Sing-along*: 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center; student-only event
-

Monday, December 20–Monday, January 3

- *Christmas Break*: Student holiday
-

Tuesday, January 4

- *Classes Resume*

Middle School

From the Assistant Head of School

Last Sunday was the beginning of the season of Advent. This time in the church calendar year is one of waiting and preparing, though shopping reminders—which start earlier each year—make it harder to honor Advent without rushing directly into the Christmas season.

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And so it went.

My children are now 34 and 24. The memories we cherish most are of moments that disappointed me at the time. The Berenstain Bears book about nutrition, which still baffles me as a choice for a 4-year-old, will always be a keeper in our children’s book collection. And the little pedal cars without wheels are still among our most treasured ornaments each year. I am thankful for the clear picture in my memory of the little boy who loved Christmas that year. Along with my children, I grew up, too. I was trying too hard and not honoring the beauty of the waiting and preparing in this season of Advent.

Whatever your traditions, and regardless of the age of your children, I hope you are enjoying moments of reflection with your family. In our often complicated and fast-paced lives, finding time to be together is what matters most.

Advent blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

All School Christmas Concert: Information for Middle Schoolers

All students in grades 5–8 who are currently enrolled in music will be performing in the **All-School Christmas Concert on Monday, December 13, at Chapelwood United Methodist Church (11140 Greenbay St.)**.

- Middle School students are expected to be in the sanctuary by 5:30 p.m. for a final run-through. You can use Parking Lot A/Entrance 1 to drop students off at the narthex of the church. All parents and guests are welcome to visit the Fellowship Hall for refreshments during this rehearsal.
- Doors will open to family members at 6:15 p.m. and the concert will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- If you have any further questions, please review the information sheet with details about this concert (attire, arrival time, etc.) on the music class website on Veracross, or reach out to [Eric Murillo](#).

Grade-Level Meetings: Mark Your Calendar

In December, we will host meetings to discuss topics especially relevant to your child's grade level. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

GRADES 4 AND 5

- **Tuesday, December 7, at 7:45 a.m.**
- **Topics:** Hear how we are working on academics and schedule enhancements

GRADES 6 AND 7

- **Wednesday, December 8, at 7:45 a.m.**
- **Topic:** Middle School experience

GRADE 8

- **Thursday, December 9, at 7:45 a.m.**
- **Topics:** Updates to travel and closing events of the eighth-grade year

Holiday Dress Dates for Middle School Students

In celebration of the holiday season, Middle School students are invited to wear holiday-themed clothing on the following dates:

- **Monday, December 13:** Green and red
- **Tuesday, December 14:** Christmas attire/ugly holiday sweater
- **Wednesday, December 15:** Santa's workshop
- **Thursday, December 16:** Favorite Christmas movie character
- **Friday, December 17:** Regular uniform with robes/slippers

If a student prefers not to wear holiday dress on a designated day, he or she may wear regular uniform dress that day instead.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 6

- *"D" Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Eucharist: 11:00 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, December 7

- *"E" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 8 Girls/Grade 7 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Middle School Parent Meeting for Grades 4 and 5: 7:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
-

Wednesday, December 8

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study (Grade 8 Boys): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Middle School Parent Meeting for Grades 6 and 7: 7:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
-

Thursday, December 9

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 6 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Middle School Parent Meeting for Grade 8: 7:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*
-

Friday, December 10

- "C" Day
 - *St. Francis Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans (No Athletic Shorts)*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 5 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
-

Monday, December 13

- "D" Day
 - *Holiday-Themed Clothing: Green and red attire*
 - *Christmas Concert: 5:00 p.m. at Chapelwood United Methodist Church*
-

Tuesday, December 14

- "E" Day
 - *Holiday-Themed Clothing: Christmas attire/ugly holiday sweater*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 8 Girls/Grade 7 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
-

Wednesday, December 15

- "A" Day
 - *Holiday-Themed Clothing: Santa's workshop (elves, Santa, reindeer, etc.)*
 - *Bible Study (Grade 8 Boys): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
-

Thursday, December 16

- "C" Day
 - *Holiday-Themed Clothing: Favorite Christmas movie character*
 - *Bible Studies (Grade 6 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
-

Friday, December 17

- *"B" Day (Modified)*
- *Holiday-Themed Clothing*: Regular uniform with robes and slippers
- *Lessons and Carols (Students Only)*: 9:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
- *Bible Studies (Grade 5 Boys and Girls)*: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway

Upper School

From the Assistant Head of School

Last Sunday was the beginning of the season of Advent. This time in the church calendar year is one of waiting and preparing, though shopping reminders—which start earlier each year—make it harder to honor Advent without rushing directly into the Christmas season.

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Whatever your traditions, and regardless of the age of your children, I hope you are enjoying moments of reflection with your family. In our often complicated and fast-paced lives, finding time to be together is what matters most.

Advent blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School

Holiday Dress Dates for Upper School Students

In celebration of the holiday season, Upper School students are invited to wear holiday-themed clothing on the following dates:

- **Monday, December 13:** Green and red
- **Tuesday, December 14:** Christmas attire/ugly holiday sweater
- **Wednesday, December 15:** Santa's workshop
- **Thursday, December 16:** Favorite Christmas movie character
- **Friday, December 17:** Christmas pajamas with robes/slippers

If a student prefers not to wear holiday dress on a designated day, he or she may wear regular uniform dress that day instead.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 6

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

Tuesday, December 7

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *College Counseling Program for Parents of Freshmen and Sophomores: 6:00 p.m. in Crum Loft on Couper Campus*
-

Wednesday, December 8

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
-

Thursday, December 9

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

Friday, December 10

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
-

Monday, December 13

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform or Holiday-Themed Attire: Green and red*
-

Tuesday, December 14

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform or Holiday-Themed Attire: Christmas attire/ugly holiday sweater*
-

Wednesday, December 15

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform or Holiday-Themed Attire: Santa's workshop*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
-

Thursday, December 16

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform or Holiday-Themed Attire: Favorite Christmas movie character*
-

Friday, December 17

- “A” Day
 - *Regular School Uniform or Holiday-Themed Attire:* Christmas pajamas with robes and slippers
 - *Upper School Lessons and Carols:* 10:00–10:35 a.m.
-

Monday, December 20–Monday, January 3

- *Winter Break:* School closed

Church

Angel Tree Party Is This Saturday

The Angel Tree Party is this **Saturday, December 11, at Trinity Episcopal Church (1015 Holman St.) from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

- Those planning to volunteer at or attend the party should RSVP as soon as possible to **Heather Burkhart** or call the church office at 713.782.1270.
- For those volunteering, please arrive at Trinity Episcopal Church by 8:00 a.m. to assist with setup.
- For more information on the Christmas Angel Tree, **contact Heather Burkhart.**

Help the Confirmation Class Provide Breakfast and Gift Bags for LOTS

This year’s Confirmation Class (eighth and ninth graders) is continuing a longtime group tradition for their Christmas Outreach Project, benefiting individuals at Lord of the Streets (LOTS). The students visited LOTS today to worship with the homeless men and women, serve them breakfast, and hand out gift bags they made.

- **To fund the cost of the gift bags, the class will be selling gift cards before and after next Sunday's services (December 12).**
- You may also purchase the cards at any time in the church office or by contacting **Cindy Hutson.**
- The cards are \$5 each and make wonderful Christmas gifts for teachers, coworkers, family members, and friends.

Support the Confirmation Class in this special outreach effort!

Submit Poinsettia Dedications by December 20

Be a part of the St. Francis tradition of making a Christmas poinsettia dedication that will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship bulletins.

- Make your dedication “In Memory” of a loved one or “In Thanksgiving” for your many blessings.
- Dedication forms are located on the tables in the Narthex, or you may submit the form and payment online [here](#).
- The suggested donation is \$30.
- **Dedications should be received in the church office no later than Monday, December 20.**

Christmas Sing-along Potluck Is December 12: Please RSVP

One of the best things about the Christmas season is the music! Join us for the **Christmas Sing-along Potluck on Sunday, December 12, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.** as we gather to sing our favorite carols and songs for all generations.

- We will begin with a festive dinner in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. The church will provide the meat, bread, and soft drinks. **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.**
- An **email invitation was sent out** recently to help us determine how many are coming and to provide a sign-up for the food. (The potluck foods are designated by last name.) If you did not receive your email invitation, please call the church at 713.782.1270 to let us know the number coming.

In-Person Worship

The Holy Eucharist is offered at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. We 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.

Moms, Join Us for Bible Study

The **SFES Moms' Bible Study** meets on **Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.** and is led by **Allison Devlin**, director of family ministry. Please contact Allison via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Join Mrs. Devlin for In-Person Let It Shine!

Join Mrs. Devlin each Sunday for in-person Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate.

Middle School Bible Study: Meets Every Sunday

We invite your Middle School-aged children to meet for Bible study each Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. service.

- **Who:** Middle School students
- **What:** Bible study and fellowship
- **When:** Meets every Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service
- **Where:** CE212 (GLOW room, upstairs above church office)
- **Why:** Current study on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

For more information, please contact Allison Devlin [via email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

High School Bible Study: Next Meeting Is January 12

The high school Bible study resumes on January 12 with a new study (theme TBD). Every other week, the group meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Houston Racquet Club for dinner and Bible study. All high schoolers are invited to attend. For additional information, please contact Allison Devlin [via email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

Calling All Musicians—We Are Back!

All those who missed sitting with your peers in the Assisi Choir and playing instruments at the 11:00 a.m. service, we are coming back together! If you have ever sung in a choir, thought about singing in a choir, or played an instrument, now is the time to join us.

- Assisi Choir practice rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. in the church.
- Instrumentalists are invited to join in a small rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays in the church.
- The Praise Choir and Band has resumed singing and playing at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service. This group meets to rehearse Sundays at 8:45 a.m. in the church.
- If you have a love of singing or playing, please [contact Richard Keith](#).

Help Meet MAM's Updated Supply Needs

Memorial Assistance Ministries recently let us know that your generous donations have been helping to keep the organization's pantry well supplied. Thank you! They do still

have some urgent needs, so if you are able to help, please consider donating the following items:

- Laundry detergent
- Size 6 diapers

For additional information, contact our church liaison, Andrea Eubanks, [via email](#) or at 713.859.1448.

Fair Haven Food Pantry Needs Canned Soup

The Fair Haven Food Pantry needs our help! The ministry, which has been providing food assistance to people in the Spring Branch/Memorial area since 1975, has requested donations of **canned meaty soup or canned bean soup** in December.

- The pantry also needs your help to sort and box produce from the Houston Food Bank and to distribute food boxes in the drive-through pickup line.
- To volunteer, please [click here](#).
- For additional information, email [Jessica Antel](#).

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 two months.

Upcoming Bible Studies at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following Bible studies, either in-person, via Zoom, or both. To join a Zoom 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:** Brief study on Advent
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651248716>
 - *To participate, email Louise Richman.*

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Acts and After You Believe
 - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](#)
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is December 14**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** Simply Good News
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Acts of the Apostles
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84213782442>
 - **Meeting ID:** 842 1378 2442
 - **Passcode:** 1c6HEL

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** The Book of Job
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room (St. Francis Episcopal School)
 - **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 10:00–10:45 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** GLOW Middle School
 - **Study:** C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*
 - **Location:** Classroom CE212
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
- Wednesdays at 6:30–8:00 p.m. (**Every other week; resumes January 12**)
 - **Meeting:** High School Dinner and Bible Study
 - **Study:** C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*
 - **Location:** Houston Racquet Club
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation

- **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
- **In-Person Meeting Place:** The Bride's Room
- **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 05741
- Wednesday Night Eucharist, Program, and Dinner (**\$10 per person**)
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** Church and Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **In-Person Meeting Place:** The Bride's Room
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Thursdays at 6:15–6:45 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/79725936159>
 - **Meeting ID:** 797 2593 6159
 - **Passcode:** 678123
- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Spiritual Enrichment
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** The Bride's Room

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 Worship Services" button. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available. If you prefer to watch from Facebook or YouTube, click on the links to go to those streaming servers.

Prelude music will begin on the livestream 10 minutes before the service to allow time for your connection and your inspiration. If you miss the live video, a recording of the service will also be available on [St. Francis's YouTube channel](#).