

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of November 27

All School

Now Delivering Letters to Santa

For the next two weeks, all of our St. Francis families are invited to drop letters to Santa in the special red mailboxes on both campuses. It's the fastest service around, with direct delivery to the North Pole ... guaranteed! To give Santa and his busy elves enough time to reply, please make sure your child's letter is in the mailbox by Monday, December 5, with the following information:

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

Thanks for helping us spread some Christmas cheer!

Winter Spirit Wear Sale: Shopping Appointments Now Available

Brrrrrr, it's cold outside! Keep your kids cozy with St. Francis Spirit Wear! Shopping appointments are available with Sophia Mitchell in the Development Office from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on **Monday, November 28; Wednesday, November 30; Monday, December 5; and Monday, December 12.**

- [Click here](#) to sign up for an appointment.
- Please note that sizes and inventory may be limited. Don't miss out—sign up today!

This Tuesday: Volunteers Needed for Holiday Art Pop-up

Please help us deck the halls this Tuesday, November 29, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the People Place on Piney Point Campus! We will be hanging up Lower School and Middle School holiday-themed art projects on art display grids. It's super easy—we just

clip them up! Anyone is welcome to help. Please [email Annie Hartigan](#) with any questions. To volunteer, [sign up here](#).

Save the Date! Joyful Sounds and Middle School Choir Christmas Concert Is December 14

Everyone is invited to the Joyful Sounds and Middle School Choir Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. We will share more details, including the location, in early December. We hope to see all of you there!

Last Chance: Help Make Christmas Merry and Bright for Our St. Francis Teachers and Staff!

The St. Francis Parents Organization Christmas Collection is a much-loved tradition that equitably benefits all teachers and staff members, while complying with our *School Handbook* gift-giving policy.

- You may [make your contribution by clicking here](#).
- You may also write a check made out to “St. Francis Parents Organization” and drop off your contribution in the SFPO box located in the front office of the Piney Point Campus. Please write “Christmas Contribution Gift” in the memo.
- **Please make your contribution before Thursday, December 1.**

The Admissions Application Deadline Is One Month Away

Do you have additional children ready to apply to St. Francis? The [admissions application deadline](#) is on Thursday, December 15. Students currently enrolled DO NOT need to reapply. They will receive a re-enrollment contract in February.

From the Nurse's Desk: Flu Guide for Parents

Influenza season is upon us. For information about the illness, including tips on how to treat it and how to protect your child from getting it, [click here](#).

Primary School

From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

I hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving full of turkey, pie, friends, and family!

Sharing new information regarding anything related to the curriculum and instruction at St. Francis is always a treat. Today, I will share some information about an innovative, developing program in our Upper School. While Upper School for your child may seem a long way away for some of you, it is good to be informed about what we offer and what sets St. Francis apart from other schools.

One of the most tumultuous times in a young person's life is the transition from high school to college. Unfortunately, not only do students have to figure out where to attend,

but many universities ask them to declare a major on their application! Most seniors are not equipped to cope with these decisions, and parents can only help so much.

The addition to our Upper School curriculum—the Post-Secondary Success Program—is unique and will prove to be highly beneficial to students and parents. I know I would have loved for my own boys to have an experience such as this as they were navigating high school and trying to comprehend what was beyond.

We are blessed to have Tracey Addington leading the charge for this innovative program. She developed a similar program at her former school in Dallas, which proved to be highly successful and beneficial for that community. I asked her to write a summary of the new program (see below). I hope you enjoy learning more about this fantastic opportunity and how it will impact our students' lives.

Fondly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

A Note From Tracey Addington, Director of Post-Secondary Success

Over the past few decades, the greatest challenge to college students has shifted from academic and financial concerns to emotional health. The recent pandemic only exacerbated this growing crisis.

More than 1 million fewer students are enrolled in college now than before the pandemic began. U.S. colleges and universities saw a drop of nearly 500,000 undergraduate students in the fall of 2021, continuing a historic decline that began the previous fall (Source: [NPR](#), January 2022).

Seventy-six percent of bachelor's degree students who have considered leaving their college or university in the past six months say emotional stress was the reason. Students are about twice as likely to cite stress as they are to give the three next-most-reported reasons: the pandemic, cost of attendance, and coursework difficulty (Source: Gallup's [The State of Higher Education 2022 Report](#)).

St. Francis Episcopal School has implemented a post-secondary success curriculum to address the changing landscape of higher education and the challenges that independence and autonomy can pose for young adults. This programming begins before the senior year, but culminates in a unique third-trimester curriculum that allows our graduates to fully explore their unique interests and passions. The Post-Secondary Success Program engages students in independent thinking and problem-solving; builds students' networking and communication skills; and develops confident, self-reliant individuals who take ownership of their own learning.

Below is an outline of the program sequence.

NINTH GRADE

The ninth-grade curriculum focuses on self-advocacy. Students consider what it means

to self-advocate, why it is essential, and how to navigate hypothetical and real-life scenarios they may encounter in Upper School.

TENTH GRADE

While there is no post-secondary success curriculum for the sophomore class in this initial year of the program, beginning next year, sophomores will meet in the spring to explore their strengths and interests as they build self-awareness. The Myers-Briggs and CliftonStrengths assessment tools will be utilized, and results will be reviewed in individual conferences.

ELEVENTH GRADE

- During Immersions and Explorations—a week allowing the students to go outside the walls of St. Francis and into the community to explore interests—the class spent a morning working on **post-secondary planning**, including completing two career-interest inventories and two college-major-exploration assessments.
- Using the results of the Immersions and Explorations session, **all juniors will meet with me** in November and December to consider their initial post-secondary interests and planning. This information will be shared with Mr. Scales, director of college counseling, to assist him in preparing for their junior college conferences.

TWELFTH GRADE

- Since the program was new this year, our seniors also spent a morning during Immersions and Explorations working on **post-secondary planning**. During this time, they completed two career-interest inventories and two college-major-exploration assessments. They also spent time reflecting on and discussing future goals, plans, and what “success” means to them.
- All students take a **one-trimester online class** designed to assist with the transition to life after high school. The curriculum includes budgeting and finances, college academics, and physical and emotional well-being.
- All students prepare for their own **senior experience** in May, which may include an internship, a service-learning opportunity, or a creative project of their choosing.
- Students will hear from **four speakers in April** designed to assist with the post-secondary transition. They are very excited about the alumni panel event, when members of our inaugural graduating class will return to speak about their freshman years.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 28

- *Open Library*: 3:15 p.m.
-

Tuesday, November 29

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*; Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, November 30

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*; Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, December 5

- *Open Library: 3:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, December 6

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*; Primary II parents may attend
 - *Explore and Extend Spring Registration Opens*
-

Wednesday, December 7

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*; Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, December 12

- *Primary I Christmas Parties: 10:00 a.m.*; please note time change
 - *Open Library: 3:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, December 13

- *PS Lessons and Carols Chapel: No parents in Chapel today*
-

Wednesday, December 14

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*; Primary I parents may attend

- *Pre-Primary Christmas Parties:* 1:45 p.m.
-

Thursday, December 15

- *Primary II Nativities and Parties*
 - **Capasso:** 9:00 a.m.
 - **Owens:** 10:00 a.m.
 - **Wiener:** 11:00 a.m.
 - **Hughes:** 12:00 p.m.
-

Monday, December 19–Monday, January 2

- *Christmas Break:* School closed
-

Tuesday, January 3

- *Classes Resume*
 - *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, January 4

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, January 9

- *Open Library:* 3:15 p.m.
 - *Explore and Extend Spring Classes Begin*
-

Tuesday, January 10

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, January 11

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend

Lower School

From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

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- All students prepare for their own **senior experience** in May, which may include an internship, a service-learning opportunity, or a creative project of their choosing.
- Students will hear from **four speakers in April** designed to assist with the post-secondary transition. They are very excited about the alumni panel event, when members of our inaugural graduating class will return to speak about their freshman years.

Save the Date! Joyful Sounds and Middle School Choir Christmas Concert Is December 14

Everyone is invited to the Joyful Sounds and Middle School Choir Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. We will share more details, including the location, in early December. We hope to see all of you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 28

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
 - *LS St. Nicholas Toy Gathering*
-

Tuesday, November 29

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, November 30

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
-

Thursday, December 1

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary

- Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Friday, December 2

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
 - *LS St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering With Santa: 9:00–11:00 a.m.*
-

Monday, December 5

- *Kindergarten Christmas Concert Rehearsal: 9:00–10:30 a.m.*
 - *Third-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
 - *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Tuesday, December 6

- *Kindergarten Christmas Concert: 9:00–9:30 a.m.*
 - *Third-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, December 7

- *Third-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
 - *Lower School Late-Start Day: Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.*
-

Thursday, December 8

- *Eucharist and Joyful Sounds Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Monday, December 12

- *First- and Second-Grade Christmas Concert: 1:00–2:00 p.m.*
 - *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Tuesday, December 13

- *Third- and Fourth-Grade Christmas Concert: 1:00–2:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, December 14

- *Joyful Sounds Christmas Choir Concert: 6:30–7:30 p.m.* in the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
-

Thursday, December 15

- *LS Joyful Sounds Christmas Party: 2:30–4:15 p.m.*
 - *Chapel for Grades K–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
-

Friday, December 16

- *LS Christmas Parties: **More information coming soon***
- *LS Polar Express Day*
- *LS Joyful Sounds Sing-A-Long: 2:00–2:40 p.m.*

Middle School

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Seventh-Grade Field Trip Is December 6

The seventh-grade students will be attending an Alley Theatre performance of *A Christmas Carol* on Tuesday, December 6. Students will board buses at 8:45 a.m. and return at 1:00 p.m. Students are to wear dress uniforms.

With rich Victorian costumes, exciting magical elements created by acclaimed illusionist Jim Steinmeyer, and beautifully sung holiday carols, *A Christmas Carol* tells the beloved story of Scrooge and his miraculous transformation.

To prepare for the event, all seventh graders read a graphic novel of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The Advanced English students also read the full-length novel. Students researched a literary allusion pertinent to the Victorian time period, and created a short slideshow to share with their peers. After the performance, students will participate in a “talk-back” facilitated by the Alley Theatre's actors and stage crew members.

December 7 Is a Late-Start Day

Parents, please note that our third Late-Start Day is Wednesday, December 7. Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. on this day.

Save the Date! Joyful Sounds and Middle School Choir Christmas Concert Is December 14

Everyone is invited to the Joyful Sounds and Middle School Choir Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. We will share more details, including the location, in early December. We hope to see all of you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 28

- *Dress Uniform*
- *Middle School Chapel*: 9:50 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
- *Sixth-Grade Bible Study*: 12:45 p.m. in Mrs. Flores’s room (boys’ Bible study) and Mrs. Gutierrez’s room (girls’ Bible study); both rooms are right off of Crum Library

Tuesday, November 29

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, November 30

- *Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, December 1

- *Middle School Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
-

Friday, December 2

- *St. Francis Spirit Dress: Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms*
- *Eighth-Grade Bible Study: 12:15 p.m. in Mrs. Flores's room (boys' Bible study) and Mrs. Gutierrez's room (girls' Bible study); both rooms are right off of Crum Library*

Upper School

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Monday, November 28

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Trimester 2 Begins*
-

Tuesday, November 29

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Picture Makeups: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; for students who missed, please wear dress uniform for makeups.*
-

Wednesday, November 30

- *“B” Day*

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, December 1

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Winter Sports Pep Rally: Crum Gym*
-

Friday, December 2

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
- *Report Cards Issued (Digitally)*

Church

Children's Christmas Party Is December 3

This Saturday, December 3, bring your kids to enjoy a visit from Santa Claus and his elves, games, face painting, balloon art, crafts, and REAL SNOW! If you did not receive an Evite or if you would like to help, please [email Allison Devlin](#).

St. Nicholas Sunday Is December 11

Join us on Sunday, December 11, to see St. Nicholas and hear his story at the 9:00 a.m. service. [Email Allison Devlin](#) for more information.

The Men of St. Francis: Next Meeting Is December 13

The Men of St. Francis continue their study on the Life of Abraham, with discussion led by Fr. Bates. The group meets at 8:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. **The next meeting will be held December 13.** The group meets at The Corner Bakery at 9311 Katy Freeway (in the Echo Lane Shopping Center), and breakfast is provided. Please [email Sally Jo Flores](#) to be added to the email distribution for future notices.

Baptisms Will Be Held on January 8

Principal feast days are especially appropriate for the Sacrament of Baptism. The next baptism date is January 8, 2023 (Baptism of our Lord). Family baptisms may also be scheduled on available Saturdays, if necessary. [Email Sally Jo Flores](#) or call the church office at 713.782.1720 to schedule a date or get more information.

Weekly Worship Schedule

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.

Pre-K to High School: Sunday Morning Programs

LET IT SHINE! CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON

Join Mrs. Devlin each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate in Let It Shine! during the adult sermon.

LIGHTHOUSE EXPRESSIONS IN ART

Each Sunday after the Family Worship Service, children are invited to join other children in the People Place (across from the Dining Hall) to create an art project based on that day's Let It Shine! lesson.

G.L.O.W. FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need our middle school students to serve as volunteers each week at Lighthouse Expressions in Art after the Family Worship Service. Come help younger children make the craft project of the week! Contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725 to sign up and receive service hours.

HIGH SCHOOL REVIVAL—MEETINGS WILL RESUME DECEMBER 4

On Sunday, December 4, high school students are once again invited to come to the People Place (across from the Dining Hall) after the Family Worship Service. Join other students each week for fellowship, learning, and a question of the day. REVIVAL is led by Nichole Hilgert. For more information, [email her](#) or call 713.468.3996.

Find Your Adventure in Girl Scouts

Join the Tall Pines Hill Girl Scout community, where all girls from kindergarten through eighth grade are welcome. Join other girls for service, camping, STEM, badges, leadership, and sisterhood! For more information, [email the troop leaders](#).

Be Still Yoga Meets Every Other Thursday

Join other women for an hour of yoga and meditative prayer every other Thursday. In stillness, God speaks to our hearts and fills us with the refreshing presence of His Spirit.

- Bring a yoga mat if you have one!
- Refreshments to follow.
- The group meets at 11:30 a.m. every other Thursday in CE212.

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

Mom's Bible Study Resumes in January

The **SFES Moms' Bible Study** group has finished its study for the year. A new class will begin in January 2023. For more information, please contact **Allison Devlin** via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

Help Meet MAM's Updated Supply Needs

Memorial Assistance Ministries has an urgent plea from the pantry team. Demand for pantry products has again peaked, and they are running very low on several items. Here is their latest list of needs:

- **Meals to Go**
 - Individually wrapped cheese/peanut butter crackers
 - Fruit strips
 - Trail mix
 - Vienna sausage
- **Hygiene Items**
 - Size 6 diapers
 - Baby wipes
 - Tissues
 - House cleaner
 - Deodorant for men and women
 - Lotion
 - Shaving cream

Many families continue to need help with the basics. Please keep the pantry in mind if any of your classes, youth groups, or other groups are looking for a project. For additional information, contact the church's director of outreach, [Heather Burkhart](#).

Fair Haven Food Pantry Needs Volunteers/Donations

The Fair Haven Food Pantry has been providing food to help people in the Spring Branch/Memorial area since 1975.

- Food Collection Items by Month:
 - **November: Canned Beans**
 - **December: Canned Meaty Soup or Bean Soup**
- Now operating under a client-choice model, **the pantry needs friendly volunteers** to help clients shop for their families, restock shelves, and assist with registration. Feeding the needy is part of serving one another, and as we serve others, we are serving Christ.
- Thank you for not donating any glass containers or expired items.
- For additional information, email [Jessica Antel](#). To volunteer, [click here](#).

Many families continue to need help with the basics. Please keep the pantry in mind if any of your classes, youth groups, or other groups are looking for a project.

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.

Wednesday Night Eucharist, Program, and Dinner

On Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., join Fr. David Price for Eucharist in St. Clare Chapel, followed by a program and dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.

- The cost of dinner is \$10 per person at the door.
- Contact [Fr. Price](#) for more information.

Bible Studies at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following Bible studies, either in-person, via Zoom, or both. To join a Zoom call, use the event link listed below.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Daniel
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83321039436>
 - **Meeting ID:** 833 2103 9436
 - **Passcode:** 649679

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](#)
 - **Location:** La Madeleine (weekly, except for second Tuesday of the month); The Corner Bakery (second Tuesday of each month)
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is December 13.**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** The Life of Abraham
 - **Location:** The Corner Bakery (9311 Katy Fwy.)
 - **Includes Breakfast**
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Romans
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)

- **Zoom Meeting Link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84206856514>
 - **Meeting ID:** 842 0685 6514
 - **Passcode:** Bi6Ga0

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** The Gospel of Luke and Paul's Letter to the Romans
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** The Bride's Room
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 05741
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** 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**](#).