

Jeff Leonard Profile

An SFX parishioner since: 2014. Backstory: in 2012 my wife, Robin, and I moved from Columbus, Ohio to St. Louis with our boys, Jack and Sam, who were in second grade and kindergarten. We felt disconnected from our neighborhood parish after deciding to send the kids to public school, so we decided to try College Church. At our first Mass, Angie Doerr swept up the boys to have them join the other kids in religious education. We immediately knew we were “home,” including my wife, who’s not even Catholic!

Living my faith: I got involved pretty quickly. I was active in the parish’s Strategic Planning process in 2014. In 2015 I joined the Pastoral Council, including two years as chair. Once I rolled off in 2021, I became a lector. I also helped represent the parish during the *All Things New* process. Lately, I’ve been involving in analyzing parish donation patterns, and providing recommendations to the Development Commission on how to ensure that SFX is on solid financial footing in the future.

Why I’m involved: I went to De Smet Jesuit High School, and our motto was “Men for Others.” That really stuck with me and has been a guiding tenet my entire life. I also think College Church is in a unique position as part of the North Deanery. We’re an active parish. How can we join our neighbors in North City to live our Ignatian Spirituality together?

Three words that describe SFX: Ignatian, Engaged, Inclusive

My neighborhood: We live in Clayton. We like being centrally located in the region, able to walk and bike easily to restaurants, Forest Park and other spots.

Fun facts: I work in Marketing at Wells Fargo, and have loads of hobbies: cooking, gardening, playing the guitar, painting. Robin has her own travel business, which keeps her busy gallivanting about the globe.

My first job out of college was interning for a U.K. Member of Parliament. I’d studied in France as a sophomore, so I was itching to get back to Europe after I graduated. It sounds much more glamorous than it was, and London was gritty and on edge with Margaret Thatcher at the helm. But living abroad twice provided great experiences, and helped inform my world view and propelled my curiosity.