

Living Our Faith
Hello, Grant

Grant Hartley

Started at SFX in: 2019, through RCIA, a process in which non-baptized adults engage in study, prayer and rites at Mass as preparation for joining the Catholic Church. I formally entered the Church and became a member of the SFX community in 2021.

Living my faith: I've been a lector at Mass, although it's more difficult to do that regularly now as I focus on my graduate studies at Aquinas Institute of Theology and an internship at the Office of Peace and Justice for the Archdiocese. I was able to tag along for RCIA again recently as a friend entered the Catholic Church last Easter. I also joined the SFX book club that read Fr. Ed, the biography of Edward Dowling, the spiritual advisor to the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous (and who did much of his ministry here in St. Louis, including at SFX).

Why I'm involved: When I began attending Mass regularly to discern whether or not I should become a Catholic, I was a bit of a nervous wreck. I was in the process of leaving a religious community in which I no longer felt comfortable or welcome. I was processing enormous shifts in my theology. And I was unsure, and perhaps even frightened, about how my life would change as a result. The SFX community proved to be an extremely safe and supportive place for me to come every week with my questions, my uncertainties, and my longings for beauty, justice and community.

Three words that describe SFX: Welcoming, Gentle, Attentive

My neighborhood: I live in University City, near the Delmar Loop -- a vibrant neighborhood with a lot of students from Wash U. I also spend a lot of time near the SLU campus at Aquinas Institute of Theology where I'm a student.

Fun facts: Starting as a teenager, I've been interested in topics related to the intersection of Christian faith and LGBTQ+ issues. I've been blessed with many opportunities to write and speak about these topics, and my personal ministry involves providing resources and finding ways to care for LGBTQ+ folks in the Church. Other hobbies include running and baking.