

Living Our Faith

Meet Jeff Fister and his Family

We've been parishioners since: 2010. When we lived in the Central West End from 1991 to 2014, our eight kids attended St. Louis Cathedral School (now closed). While that was our parish, we also attended SFX. As the kids got older, and as SLU alumni, we gravitated back to College Church and officially registered.

Living our faith: Over the years I helped on the Gala committee, my wife Laura volunteered at the Christmas Fair Trade Market, and we volunteered at Winter Inn. Our two youngest kids took part in the SFX youth faith formation program and our daughter Theresa was confirmed at College Church. Our kids attended the summer social justice camp.

In 2012, through my publishing business, I worked with Father J.J. Mueller to help publish the book, *Saints in Glass*, which tells the story of the SFX stained-glass windows, Now, post-COVID, and with the kids out of the house, Laura and I hope to get more involved again.

Why we're involved: As SLU alumni, Laura and I have a deep connection to College Church and the Jesuits. We appreciate the history and tradition of the Church, not to mention its physical beauty and landmark status in our City. We also love the Jesuit musical tradition and incredible choir and musicians. We appreciate how the Church has always been a beacon of hope for the underserved, and how its inclusive outlook points the way to a renewed Church.

Three words that describe SFX: Our. Spiritual. Home.

Our neighborhoods: We moved from the Central West End in 2014 and bought a smaller home in Clifton Heights in South St. Louis. We hosted Father Dan at our home several years ago as part of the neighborhood gatherings for our area.

Fun facts: My family has a five-generation connection to SFX. My parents Richard and Virginia Fister met at SLU, and Dad proposed to Mom in 1953 in the front pew of College Church. I also met my wife Laura at SLU, and we were married here in 1985. Our oldest daughter Virginia married her husband Bertrand (a French naval officer) at SFX in 2016, and their daughter Eléonore was baptized here in 2018.

The final connection? I recently found out from my Mom that her father attended SLU in the 1930s. It was during the Depression, and he wasn't able to graduate, but his wife (my grandmother) took classes at SFX to convert to Catholicism. And now, our youngest son Luke started as a freshman at SLU last fall.