

## **Living Our Faith**

### **Meet Leah**

***An SFX parishioner since:*** 2019. Our family – including my husband, Ryan, and our son, Avi – officially joined the parish when Avi was baptized. Before that, we came to SFX occasionally, as we have other family members (Hi, Nagels!) who are members of the parish.

***Living my faith:*** Ryan and I are very connected to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS, also referred to as Atrium) program at SFX. First and foremost, we want our son to develop his own relationship with God and find community in our Church. CGS at College Church has incredible teachers and volunteers who make the experience truly special. Avi often comes home singing songs, talking about Jesus and his impact on the world, and reflecting on what we can do to make our world and community better.

Additionally, this year I have the opportunity to lead the SFX Data and Insights Committee, a newly formed team dedicated to helping us understand more about our parish. It's been spiritually uplifting to meet fellow parishioners who are also interested in data and exploring how it can "turn on the light" to help us illuminate the path for parish involvement, community development and growth, working in collaboration with our Engagement Committee and Development Commission.

***Why I'm involved:*** SFX is a truly special place in its focus on social justice and commitment to anti-racism and environmental issues that impact our community and faith. Also, we have met so many welcoming families in the parish ballroom space after dropping off Avi for Atrium before Mass begins. These moments provide the opportunity to connect and provide a type of support system and community that we wouldn't find elsewhere.

I also greatly appreciate that our parish seeks feedback on new ways to create community, especially since we as a parish span a larger geography across St. Louis.

***Three words that describe SFX:*** Community, Connected, Caring.

***My neighborhood:*** We currently live in Creve Coeur, in the Parkway School District.

***Fun Facts:*** Ryan and I both are very passionate people--Ryan is a teacher and will always find time to talk about education, communication techniques for middle schoolers, and board games. I am in healthcare analytics, and love to talk about data visualization, health equity and access to care, and music.

Note: Today, March 24, is Leah's birthday. Make it a great one, Leah!