

Marty Lenihan

I've been a parishioner for: 20+ years. I was introduced to College Church as a seminarian, when I took some courses at SLU and was exposed to the teaching and preaching of Fr. John Kavanaugh. While I didn't become a priest, the experience made an impression. My wife Susan and I joined SFX much later, after our kids graduated.

Living my faith: Music has been a constant thread in my involvement at College Church. I was in the choir for many years and now play guitar at 10:30 Mass every other week. I also play regularly at the ID and Birth Certificate program. It's rewarding to watch the healing power of music reduce stress, lift spirits and establish connections. Some of the guests say thank you, and sing along.

In addition, I'm a member of the Parish Council, have been involved in our anti-racism initiative and, with Susan, have assisted the marriage preparation program.

Why I'm involved: College Church is an intentional parish community. We chose to join because of the high quality of the liturgy – the excellence of the homilies, the beautiful choir and music. After we retired, we deepened our commitment and were drawn to the social justice programs.

Over the years, we've developed personal history with College Church. One of our sons was married here and seven of our nine grandchildren were baptized here. We have a lot of affection for the community. SFX is very special, and there's not another like it.

Three words that describe SFX: Intentional, Involved, Progressive

My neighborhood: Kenrick Park, near the Cardinal Rigali Center in Shrewsbury

Fun facts: I was a Human Resources executive for a diverse range of companies, most recently with Midwest Bank Center for 15 years before I retired. Father Dan tapped my HR skills when College Church was looking to hire a parish administrator. Katie Jansen got the job, of course, and it's remarkable to have a such a capable woman leading our parish. For fun, I'm part of a band called What's Next. We started up during the Pandemic to play pop, rock and acoustic music. We've even had a few public performances -- at parish festivals, the Webster Groves Arts Festival and at my condo.