Dennis Smith (Year 3)-I basically married into the parish when I wed Sally Fay, who was born into the parish and attended School of the Madeleine. We were wed here at St. Mary Magdalen in 1971 and our first daughter was baptized here in 1972. We moved to San Leandro in 1973 and moved back to Berkeley and rejoined the parish in 1998. I have served the church as an usher, the parish liaison to the Berkeley Food Pantry, and as a member of the Parish Council.

My wife, son and I have been in the wonderful Mary Magdalen community for the last twenty-five years. I am a lector/reader at the pre-virus 11:00 mass. I have been helping with the Sunday dinners for the last eight years. Being a member of the council has opened my eyes to the vibrancy of this parish. There are more ways to be involved here than any one person could possibly take on. I encourage everyone to join one meeting of the council to find out what I am talking about.

I was confirmed at St. Mary Magdalen in 1998. My two children were baptized in 1997 and participated in our parish religious education through their early teens. I sing in the 9:30 choir and am a member of the Peace & Justice Committee and the Funeral Ministry. This year I am Convener (a rotating position) for the Council.

Ceara Brencic serves on the Parish Council as a Facilities Coordinator. She and her family have been members of the Parish since 2001. Ceara currently works in the residential construction industry, and has degrees in Architecture and Construction Management from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She has worked in construction since 1998, her first job out of college was the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, Ca. Ceara has also served as a volunteer at the School of the Madeleine on the Advisory Board, Auction Committee, and as a Room Parent. She is also an active Vincentian within the Parish. Ceara enjoys the beach, travelling, parties, and Italian food.
I have been a parishioner at Saint Mary Magdalen Parish for over twenty years. My two daughters and youngest son went to the School of the Madeleine. Most parishioners may recall Alex and Isaiah as they often attended Mass with me.

Prior to COVID-19 I attended the Saturday Vigil Mass volunteering as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. I welcome the opportunity to be of continued service to the St. Mary Magdalen Parish.  

Sharon Ceasar

I have been a parishioner since 1988. All four of my children, ages 18 through 28, attended the School of the Madeleine. My youngest son Gregory currently plays saxophone in the choir, and my beloved late wife Avril was a longtime cantor at weekend Masses for many years.

Alex Saldanha

The St. Mary Magdalen Parish Pastoral Council meets monthly to support and promote the activities and spiritual life of our Parish. We are a sounding board for both our pastor, Fr. Nick, and fellow parishioners. One of our most recent accomplishments was the finalization of the Parish Pledge, which was both inspired and informed by the work of nearly 40 parishioners who attended the January 2020 Parish Leadership Conference and subsequent meetings. This three-year Plan is the result of committed energy across our parish community.

Parishioners may self-nominate or be nominated by other to the Council; candidates are then invited by Fr. Nick to serve. Each Council member is expected to complete a three-year term, providing a staggered rotation on and off the Council.

Parishioners are encouraged to contact Council members and share ideas, concerns, and aspirations for our church and or community!