



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

Baptism of the Lord-A, January 11, 2026

In Service to the English-speaking Catholic Community and Visitors of Cuenca

**WELCOME TO OUR
ENGLISH-SPEAKING
CATHOLIC FAMILY IN
CUENCA!**

OUR PASTORS:

Padre Joffre Astudillo,
Pastor of San Francisco



Father Kevin Codd,
Presider of the English-Speaking Catholics of Cuenca. Contact Father Kevin at:
Mobile: 099-726-0770
WhatsApp: +1 509-991-2411
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REGULAR EVENTS:

Mass in English:

Sunday: 10:00 am
Followed by Coffee & Not Donuts
Iglesia San Francisco
Padre Aguirre y Pdte. Cordova
(Plaza San Francisco)

Weekday Mass: Wednesdays, 11:00 am,
Father Kevin's home: Edificio Alqamari,
Los Capulíes y Los Molles. Apt. 502.

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick: By appointment. Please contact Father Kevin to schedule.

We're on Social Media

- ❖ Our WEBSITE:
CuencaCatholic.org
- ❖ You can find us on FACEBOOK
at [CUENCA ENGLISH MASS](https://www.facebook.com/CUENCA-ENGLISH-MASS)
- ❖ Audio of Father Kevin's recent homilies can be found at:
kacodd.podbean.com

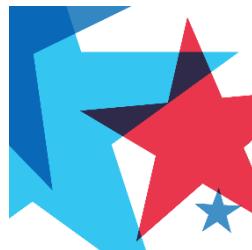


Fr Kevin to be Away Later in January

Father Kevin will be away from Cuenca for about ten days later in January. He will be visiting his former parish, Antigua Santa Catarina Ixtahuacan, in the highlands of Guatemala from **January 21-31**. On Sunday, **January 24**, Padre Joffre will say the Mass in Spanish, but the Liturgy of the Word, including the readings, the reflection on the Gospel, and the intercessions, will be in English.

Cathedral Closure

For those who occasionally attend Mass at Cuenca's Cathedral, the church will be closed for on-going structural repairs from **January 12th to January 17th**. The regular Cathedral Masses will take place in the Old Cathedral just across the Parque Calderon from the Cathedral.



U.S. Consulate & Embassy Services in Cuenca

Alicia Boroto advises us that on **January 26th and 27th**, representatives from the Regional Federal Benefits Office of the U.S. Embassy in Quito will be available to offer services for beneficiaries or individuals with questions about U.S. Social Security benefits. No appointment is necessary for this assistance. They will be at the *Abraham Lincoln Center, Calle Borrero 5-18 y Honorio Vásquez*.

Moreover, representatives from the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil will be at the *Abraham Lincoln Center* to provide notarial, passport and CRBA services on **January 28 and 29, 2026**; documents need to be prepared in advance, payments made, and appointments are required.

For appointments, please use this link:

<https://outlook.office365.com/book/ACSServicesCuencaJanuary2026@state.gov/?ismsaljsauthenabled>

If you would like more information about either opportunity, please feel free to contact Alicia at 099-807-9748 or by email at: aliciaboroto@gmail.com

A Few Words from Father Kevin

Dear Friends,

Two quotations for our consideration:

1: "A diplomacy that promotes dialogue and seeks consensus among all parties is being replaced by a diplomacy based on force, by either individuals or groups of allies. War is back in vogue and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself, or in the pursuit of 'the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect form of justice among men and women.' Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one's own dominion. This gravely threatens the rule of law, which is the foundation of all peaceful civil coexistence."

2: "We live in a world in which you can talk all you want about international niceties and everything else, but we live in a world, in the real world...that is governed by strength, that is governed by force, that is governed by power..."

You have probably guessed that the first quotation is from Pope Leo. Earlier this week, he addressed the corps of diplomats from around the world posted to the Vatican. The second quotation is from a government official of a superpower nation; I'll let you figure out which nation and who might be speaking. The contrast between the two is stark. Though it is up to each of us to determine in our consciences which of the two best expresses our own view of the world, as Catholics, in making that determination, we have to listen attentively to the Pope, but even more, we *MUST* remember the story of Jesus, whose birth we only just celebrated. This Jesus was born in poverty, was chased down by a powerful king with the intent to kill him, lived his life without riches, stayed close to the poor, the ill, and the least, was himself persecuted, prosecuted unjustly, and executed. He exercised no force; he had no power. Yet he "rules the world", as we have sung these past weeks. We can only claim him as our King if we follow his star...

Continuing This Sunday: Offering Procession & Communion under Both Species

Continuing this Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent, we offer two new liturgical practices to better celebrate the Eucharist in our church community.

- The bread and wine to be used in the Eucharist are placed on a small table in the center aisle of the church. Once we have finished the Intercessions, we need two persons to bring the bread and wine forward and offer them to Father on behalf of all of us present.
- We are making available the Blood of Christ to you and doing so as it is commonly done in the U.S., Canada, and other countries: directly from the chalice. The chalice should be taken in hand by the communicant and a small sip taken. Dipping the host into the chalice is not generally allowed.

Pope Leo This Week on Peace:

"From a Christian perspective – but also in other religious traditions – peace is first and foremost a gift. It is the first gift of Christ: "My peace I give to you" (*In 14:27*). Yet it is an active and demanding gift. It engages and challenges each of us, regardless of our cultural background or religious affiliation, demanding first of all that we work on ourselves. Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words. For words too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill."

Let Us Pray!

- FOR LINDA SORRENTO'S FRIENDS, **CINDY** AND HER BROTHER, **DON**, BOTH WITH CONGENITAL HEART CONDITIONS AND FOR A DONOR OF A HEART FOR DON.
- FOR THE BROTHER OF DON FORONDA, **ARNOLD FORONDA**, WHO IS RECOVERING FOR MITRAL VALVE SURGERY IN ROME.
- FOR **JOHN FRANKOWSKI**, WHO HAS BEEN HAVING SOME HEALTH ISSUES THE PAST FEW WEEKS.
- KATHY CASE ASKS FOR PRAYERS FOR **ANTHONY LANGER**, WHO IS EXPERIENCING HEART PROBLEMS AND FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF **MARGARET SIGMON**, WHO PASSED AWAY ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
- FOR SUE HAMPTON'S YOUNG GREAT-NIECE, **PENNY**, WHO IS RECOVERING FROM HER SUCCESSFUL SURGERY IN BELGIUM.
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL BE SOON TRAVELLING: **CHRYSTAL HOLLEY**, **ELFREIDE DECLUE**, **OMAR FIGUEROA**.