



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

4th Sunday of Lent-A, March 15, 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:
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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/CuencaEnglishMass)
- ❖ Audio of Father Kevin's recent
homilies can be found at:
kacodd.podbean.com

A Lenten Invitation to our Community: *Rice!*

During this Lenten season, the members of our community are invited to fulfill the Lenten responsibility to be particularly sacrificial in works of charity. ***Please bring to Mass on the Sundays of Lent a bag of rice*** (or other non-perishable foods) to support the special ministry of our parish's *Posada San Francisco*, which feeds and houses the homeless and vulnerable in the *Centro Histórico* of Cuenca.



Our Holy Week Schedule

As in recent years, our schedule for Holy Week will be as follows:

- ❖ **Passion/Palm Sunday**, March 29th, 10:00 am: Blessing of Palms and Proclamation of the Passion of Our Lord (Matthew's Gospel), Eucharist.
- ❖ **Wednesday of Holy Week:** daily Mass at Father Kevin's, 11:00 am.
- ❖ **Holy Thursday**, April 2nd, 5:00 pm: Commemoration of the Lord's Supper, Eucharist, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Adoration. *(And for those who wish to follow the Ecuadorian tradition: visitation of the Seven Churches for prayer before their Altars of Repose).*
- ❖ **Good Friday**, April 3rd, 5:00 pm: Commemoration of the Lord's Passion: Proclamation of the Passion (John's Gospel), Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion, departure in silence.
- ❖ **Easter Vigil:** April 4th, 7:00 pm: This year in Spanish only with the Ecuadorian community of the *Parroquia de San Francisco*.
- ❖ **Easter Sunday**, Morning Mass: 10:00 am, in English.

Additionally, in Spanish:

- ❖ **Los Pasos of the 17 statues of the Passion:** beginning at the *Iglesia de San Blas* and ending at the Cathedral, Tuesday, March 31, 6:00 pm.
- ❖ **The Chrism Mass**, Cathedral, Holy Thursday, April 2nd, 9:00 am, with all the bishops and priests of the archdiocese. Blessing of Holy Oils and Renewal of priestly promises.
- ❖ **Way of the Cross/Via Crucis** in Spanish, Good Friday, 9:00 am, April 3rd, *Parroquia San Francisco*, passing through the streets of the neighborhood.

A Few Words from Father Kevin...

Dear Friends,

We all know it is a truism that war does not play favorites when it comes to its victims. When bombs fall, they don't choose who beneath them will be spared and who not. When bullets fly, they don't divert from their trajectory to avoid the innocent and hit only the enemy. Just as the rain falls on the just and the unjust, so the wages of war are born by combatant and the noncombatant alike. This is one of the reasons why the Church through the ages in her wisdom has so forcefully sought to enforce the most strict moral and ethical requirements before going to war and the fundamental rules of waging war to keep war's weapons from willy-nilly blasting away at anyone and everyone.

This past week, in southern Lebanon and Israel, missiles have been flying in both directions. One of those missiles found its target in the Maronite Christian village of Qlayaa, a few miles from the Israeli border. The day before, the town's priest, Father Pierre Al-Rahi, spoke to a French television network from the steps of his church and said, "We are forced to stay despite the danger, ...we defend our land, and we do so peacefully. None of us carries weapons. All of us carry peace and goodness and love." The following day, a missile hit a home there and a parishioner was severely wounded. Father Pierre ran to the building to care for the parishioner; upon his arrival a second strike on the same building mortally wounded Father Pierre; he died before reaching a hospital.

If we are looking for heroes in this or any war, we must start with people like Father Pierre, people of peace, faith, and self-sacrificial love. If there are saints to be found in the rubble of war, Father Pierre is a likely candidate. Of Father Pierre, Pope Leo spoke: "...he was a true shepherd who always stayed beside his people, with the love and sacrifice of Jesus the Good Shepherd. May the Lord grant that the blood he shed be a seed of peace for beloved Lebanon."

Alas, there are so many others as well, people of peace, faith, and self-sacrificial love whom we will never hear of because they have been buried under the rubble of ruthless warmaking. No one will ever tell their stories. Only God will know their heroism and their sanctity. He will bless them greatly when they come into his Kingdom.

For those who through arrogance, greed, vengeance, hatred, or willed stupidity wage unjust wars, we leave their immortal destiny in the merciful hands of this same God and pray for their souls now and when they, too, shall die.

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Please know that we all are warmly invited to join the entire Archdiocese of Cuenca, together with its bishops, priests, and laity in joyfully celebrating the ordination of two new priests for service to the People of God in this archdiocese: Deacons **René Yunga** and **Jorge Luis Varela**. The solemn and moving ordination liturgy will take place in the Cathedral on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, **Thursday, March 19th, 9:00 am**. Let us support our new priests with our prayers!

Liturgy Tid-Bit for Today: Cantors and Choirs

Have you ever found yourself at Mass as a visitor and felt like just maybe the person leading the music and maybe even the whole choir were putting on a show more than worshipping God? That is an uncomfortable feeling indeed and it reminds us of what the proper role of the leader of music and the choirs should be in our Catholic liturgy. It is quite the opposite from putting on a "show"!

According to the *General Instruction* of the Roman Missal, (the "rulebook" for how to celebrate Mass!), the primary purpose of music in the Mass is *to give glory of God and to sanctify the faithful*. In pursuit of those lofty goals, the music of the Mass is to foster unity, enhance the liturgical action, and lift the hearts of the faithful towards Christ. The role of the cantor and choir in fulfilling these purposes is to lead, support, and direct the singing of the congregation in being actively and consciously involved in the prayer of the liturgy...and never make themselves a "performer" with themselves at center-stage!

Let Us Pray!

- FOR THE CONTINUED HEALING OF LINDA SORRENTO'S FRIENDS, **CINDY**, AND HER BROTHER, **DON**, BOTH WITH CONGENITAL HEART CONDITIONS. DON JUST GOT PUT BACK ON THE ACTIVE HEART TRANSPLANT LIST.
- FOR FATHER KEVIN'S BROTHER, **PAUL CODD**, WHO HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER AND WILL HAVE SURGERY ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH.
- FOR BILL LAUER'S SISTER, **PEGGY AKERS**, WHO HAS BEEN VERY ILL FOR SOME TIME AND IS NOW IN HOSPICE CARE.
- FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN CUENCA AND NEARBY TOWNS AFFECTED BY THIS PAST WEEK'S FLOODING.
- FOR **DEACONS RENÉ YUNGA AND JORGE LUIS VARELA** WHO WILL BE ORDAINED PRIESTS IN THE CUENCA CATHEDRAL THIS THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026.
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL SOON BE TRAVELLING, ESPECIALLY: **RUDY ESPINOZA, LETTY FORONDA, AND BILL AND CATHY LAUER**.
- FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN UKRAINE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND IN ALL COUNTRIES PRESENTLY AFFLICTED BY WAR AND CIVIL UNREST.
- FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM THE FLOODING IN CUENCA.