



## Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

Holy Family Sunday-A, December 28, 2025

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,**  
President 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](http://CuencaCatholic.org)
- ❖ You can find us on FACEBOOK  
at [CUENCA ENGLISH MASS](http://CUENCA ENGLISH MASS)
- ❖ Audio of Father Kevin's recent  
homilies can be found at:  
[kacodd.podbean.com](http://kacodd.podbean.com)

## Holy Family Sunday

*None of our families are perfect...yet! But all our families, even with their various difficulties, are already HOLY families, because of God's great love shared with us, a love that draws us together as sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, cousins and aunts and uncles.*

## New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



As most of you know, the first day of the new year is dedicated to Mary, Mother of God. We will celebrate this Solemnity with Mass in English on Thursday, **January 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00 am** in the **Iglesia de San Francisco**. All are welcome! There will be no Wednesday Mass on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Continuing This Sunday: Offering Procession & Communion under Both Species**

Continuing this Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are 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.

### **THIS SUNDAY: Little Brown Envelopes!**

This Sunday, December 28th, is the last of the month and so time once again to take up our *Little Brown Envelope* collection in support of our friends at the *Fundación de Santa María de la Esperanza* in Chordeleg and Gualaceo. As always, please be as generous as your means allow!

## A Few Words from Father Kevin

Dear Friends,

Christmas in the Codd household was a very big deal! For all eleven of us little ones, the palpable expectation of the delights that awaited us under the great tree on Christmas morning grew ever deeper as the great day approached. A week or two ahead, we would put up that tree in our living room and the smell of fir pitch would fill the area. With precision we would wrap strings of old lights around its girth, then hang the glass balls handed down to us from Dad's family, then, finally, the tinsel went on in globes...in the early years made out of lead, then aluminum, then finally coated celophane, but always adding that final touch of sparkle to the tree. The crib went up at the same time, an old wood structure covered in bark and a bag of hay to fill in the floor, then the figures of Mary, Joseph, and the animals...Baby Jesus had to wait until the very day.

We would be put to bed early on the 24<sup>th</sup>, then awakened and readied to go to the Midnight Mass at my Dad's old parish, Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, where all thirteen of us would be squished into the choir loft high above the liturgical goings-ons far below. I remember I had my first "spiritual experience" up in that loft as a kid...the sanctuary below was infused with glory for just a moment or two, but I knew then that God was real and the moment has stayed with me until today. Returned home, we would go back to bed and await the dawn...and the great display of presents under our tree, brought in mysteriously by Santa Clause while we were deep in sleep. It was the one morning where we competed to be the first to rise and clamber downstairs in our pj's to our living room. We had to wait until everyone was there before we could open anything, but we nevertheless were busy checking out the tags and who was going to get what. We took turns opening just one gift at a time...and with eleven of us, that took a while. Most of the gifts were practical: socks and underwear or a new pair of salt and pepper cords for school. But always, there was at least one toy for everyone...maybe two. How did our parents pull this off...the buying, wrapping, and setting it all out without our knowing? It was pure love. A kind of holy family love at its best!

## God is in the Manger...

*The German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed by the Nazis because of his firm and prophetic opposition to their cause, wrote the following about the Christmas mysteries we celebrate this week:*

God travels wonderful ways with human beings, but he does not comply with the views and opinions of people. God does not go the way that people want to prescribe for him; rather, his way is beyond all comprehension, free and self-determined beyond all proof. Where reason is indignant, where our nature rebels, where our piety anxiously keeps us away: that is precisely where God loves to be. There he confounds the reason of the reasonable; there he aggravates our nature, our piety—that is where he wants to be, and no one can keep him from it. Only the humble believe him and rejoice that God is so free and so marvelous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvelous. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*

*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 PREPARING FOR MITRAL VALVE SURGERY IN ROME.
- AND FOR ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND OF FATHER KEVIN, REV. SCOTT MCCOLL, WHO HAS JUST BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH ACUTE LEUKEMIA.
- FOR SUE HAMPTON'S YOUNG GREAT-NIECE, PENNY, WHO IS FACING ANOTHER VERY SERIOUS SURGERY SOON.
- FOR A DEAR FRIEND OF OMAR FIGUEROA, TERRI HAIR, WHO PASSED AWAY LAST WEEK. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL BE SOON TRAVELLING: CHRYSTAL HOLLEY, ELFREIDE DECLUE, OMAR FIGUEROA, SUE HAMPTON, AND JEFF TALAGA.