



## Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time-A, January 18, 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,**  
President of the English-Speaking Catholics of Cuenca. Contact Father Kevin at:  
Mobile: 099-726-0770  
WhatsApp: +1 509-991-2411  
Email: [KACODD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KACODD@GMAIL.COM)

#### 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.

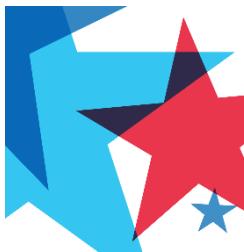
#### We're on Social Media

- ❖ 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)



**Fr Kevin to be Away January 21-31**  
Father Kevin will be away from Cuenca for about ten days beginning next week. He will be visiting his former parish, Antigua Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán, 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. There will be no Wednesday Masses over the next two weeks. We will resume in February.



#### U.S. Consulate & Embassy Services in Cuenca

Alicia Boroto advises us that on **January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**, 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 Honorato 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](mailto:aliciaboroto@gmail.com)

#### Little Brown Envelopes Next Sunday!

Next Sunday, January 25, is the last of the month, so we will be passing out the Little Brown Envelopes as usual. Thank you in advance for your generosity to our friends at the Foundation!

## A Few Words from Father Kevin

Dear Friends,

800 years is not a long time when seen from the perspective of a universe that is billions of years old...and even from that of humanity with its hundreds of thousands of years. But from the perspective of Christianity, just 2000 years old, 800 begins to take on a feeling of importance.

This is particularly the case when “timelining” the comings and goings of our greatest saints. And such is certainly the case of our community’s patron, Saint Francis of Assisi. In 2026, the Church celebrates the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death! In fact, Pope Leo just this past week proclaimed this year to be a jubilee year in honor of the death of Saint Francis. In his letter to the leaders of the Order of Friars Minor, Pope Leo wrote:

*In this era, marked by so many seemingly endless wars, by internal and social divisions that create distrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace.*

Some three years ago, we took on Saint Francis of Assisi as the patron of our Catholic Community here in Cuenca, an apt choice since our “home church” in Cuenca has been under his patronage since it was founded in the late-1500’s.

There will certainly be many resources made available to help us and all the Church celebrate this extraordinary saint, including pilgrimages to Assisi itself, where Francis’ mortal remains will be made available for veneration during the coming year. Not many of us will be in a position to travel to Assisi this year, but all of us can grow in our appreciation of Francis’ extraordinary life and his teaching in both word and deed. He is so beloved precisely because he so radically lived the poverty, humility, and sacrificial love of Jesus in his time and in this he is a great example to us as well as a patron saint for us.

In this Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, may we open our hearts to the *Poverello*, seek his protection and intercession, and strive to follow his humble way of peace.

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

Continuing this Sunday, 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; the chalice is then returned to the hands of the Eucharistic Minister. Dipping the host into the chalice is not generally allowed.

## Jubilee Year of Saint Francis Indulgence

In this Franciscan Jubilee Year, from now until Jan. 10, 2027, the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope — by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventional church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.

Furthermore, the elderly, the sick, and those who, for serious reasons, cannot leave their homes can obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining in the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God.

*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 **CHRYSTAL HOLLEY**, WHO WILL BE HAVING FOOT SURGERY LATER THIS MONTH IN TEXAS.
- FOR **REV. SCOTT MCCOLL**, A GOOD FRIEND OF FATHER KEVIN, WHO PASSED AWAY THIS PAST WEEK AFTER A BRIEF STRUGGLE WITH AN AGGRESSIVE LEUKEMIA.
- 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**.