



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

5th Sunday of Easter-A, May 3, 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 the Parroquet
de 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,
#502, Calle los *Capulíes* y los Molles.

**Reconciliation and Anointing of the
Sick:** By appointment.

We're on Social Media

- ❖ Our WEBSITE:
CuencaCatholic.org
- ❖ You can find us on FACEBOOK
at [SAINT FRANCIS CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY OF CUENCA, EC](https://www.facebook.com/SaintFrancisCatholicCommunityofCuencaEC)
- ❖ Audio of Father Kevin's recent
homilies and his blog are found
at: KACODD.COM/homilies



WHILE FATHER KEVIN IS AWAY

During the Sundays Father Kevin is in Spokane preparing for his move to the new house here, **Sunday Mass continues at the regular 10:00 am time.** Padre Joffre will celebrate the Mass in Spanish, and the Liturgy of the Word, Reflection, and songs will be in English. The Gospel reflections are offered by members of our community. Father Kevin will be back celebrating Mass on *Sunday, May 31st.*

"Coffee and Pastries" will continue after Mass throughout the month. Please take time to come and meet and chat with members of the community.

There will be no weekday Masses while Father Kevin is away.

What a Generous Community

Thanks to your generosity in the Little Brown Envelopes collection last week, we were able to send \$551 to Fundación de Santa Maria de la Esperanza in Chordeleg and Gualaceo! Your contributions help the foundation give a life-long home and care to abandoned children, adults, and the elderly of our area. Our community has heard the voice of the Lord and responded. Well done!

The Global Reach of St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi is perhaps the most beloved saint. His humility and love of all touch people of all faiths around the world. The Vatican News reported this week of a commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis in the Kingdom of Bahrain, a small island community between Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The kingdom has launched a series of cultural and interreligious initiatives titled "Bridges of Peace between Italy and Bahrain: The Legacy of Francis."

The celebrations draw a historical parallel between St. Francis's 1219 encounter with the Sultan of Egypt and the vision of Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, a key figure in Bahraini history who fostered religious openness and social exchange. Speaking at the press conference, Italy's Ambassador to Manama, Andrea Catalano, noted that "the voice of St Francis still speaks to our world" and that "his call for peace and dialogue resonates with urgency in an age marked by division and conflict."

Are we reaching everyone?

On Thursday, the National Catholic Register had an article written by Luke Larson: "*Why a Catholic 'Revival' May Be Leaving the Working Class Behind.*" The article examines the demographic disconnect in the current "Catholic revival" in the United States. Media reports and diocesan data highlight a surge in new converts, particularly among upwardly mobile, white-collar young people in urban centers. Larson notes that the blue-collar populations are largely being left behind.

Larson identifies several barriers causing this. Some are:

- **Irregular marriage status:** it's the most common reason people leave midway through RCIA programs.
- **Cultural disconnect:** People who are most likely to go to church have graduate degrees; least likely did not finish high school."
- **Other barriers to entry:** Many lower-economic families spend more time at work, often working more than one job, with schedules that make it difficult attend church.
- **Perception of elitism:** Some working-class people think that the Church belongs to a cultural stratum that "disdains blue-collar workers."

For whatever reason there are for the decreasing working-class members of the church, the data suggests that it is a real decrease; the whole flock is not being shepherded.

The article ends with this: "Ignoring the working class is to betray the very origins of our faith."

"Christianity was founded by a carpenter; it was founded by a blue-collar worker. We will always lose sight in some aspect of the splendor of Christianity if we are not recognizing the humble origins of Our Lord."

Ecclesiastical Communion

This week Pope Leo XIV granted ecclesiastical communion to the Patriarch of Baghdad of the Chaldeans, Polis III Nona. What is **ecclesiastical communion**? It is a broad term that describes the quality of the relationship between churches. Specifically, when we talk about the relationship between individuals or other churches, we mean it to be in *full communion with the Pope in Rome*. Three things are necessary for a person or church to be in full communion with Rome are:

- **Faith** — believing the same doctrines the Church teaches.
- **Sacraments** — participating in the same seven sacraments, especially the Eucharist.
- **Governance** — accepting the authority of the Pope and bishops.

Along with the Roman there are 23 Eastern Catholic churches in full communion with Rome.

Let Us Pray...

- FOR **CORNELIA**, FRIEND OF RICHARD FRAUMENI WHO IS EXPERIENCE HEART-RELATED PROBLEMS.
- FOR SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY FROM SURGERY FOR **JOHN FRANKOWSKI**.
- FOR TROY WELCH'S UNCLE, **DAVE IDLEMAN**, WHO IS RECOVERING FROM STAGE FOUR CANCER TREATMENT.
- FOR FATHER KEVIN'S BROTHERS, **PAUL AND BILL CODD**, WHO ARE RECOVERING FROM SURGERIES AND COMPLICATIONS.
- FOR FR. **JOSÉ LUIS MILLÁN**, A PRIEST OF SPOKANE, AND A FRIEND OF FR. KEVIN, RECOVERING FROM ENCEPHALITIS
- FOR THE CONTINUED HEALING OF LIND SORRENTO'S FRIENDS, **CINDY**, AND HER BROTHER, **DON**, BOTH WITH CONGENITAL HEART CONDITIONS. DON RECEIVED A NEW HEART, SO THAT PRAYER HAS BEEN ANSWERED.
- FOR ALL WHO ARE OR SOON WILL BE TRAVELLING: **NANCY AND WARD SMYTH, WILLIAM AND TAE SUK HARPER, AND FATHER KEVIN**.
- FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY RAGING WILDFIRES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN U.S.
- FOR AN END TO WAR AND VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND HOPE FOR JUST AND LASTING PEACE.
- FOR A PROMPT SALE OF FATHER KEVIN'S HOME IN SPOKANE