



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

Solemnity of the Epiphany-A, January 4, 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:
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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](#)
- ❖ Audio of Father Kevin's recent homilies can be found at:
kacodd.podbean.com



The Epiphany

Today's Solemnity of the Epiphany isn't just about the Three Magi arriving in Bethlehem; it is about the light and glory of Jesus becoming manifest to the nations.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for this most wondrous gift of the Christmas mysteries!

Our Little Brown Envelopes: A Record Collection!

The Christmas spirit of generosity was well expressed this past Sunday when our monthly collection for the *Fundacion de Santa Maria de la Esperanza* in Chordeleg and Gualaceo raised an all-time record of **\$1,552!** This is three times what we usually raise! Thank you for your extraordinary generosity!



Wednesday Mass Begins Again This Week

After a couple weeks of "hiatus" due to the Christmas and New Year feasts, our Wednesday Mass will begin again this week. Please join us at Father Kevin's apartment at 11:00 am. Coffee, tea, and something nice to eat follow.

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.

A Few Words from Father Kevin

Dear Friends,

This Sunday's solemn feast of the Epiphany most commonly calls to mind the arrival of the Magi from the East to Bethlehem and their offering to the newborn King of the Jews gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Besides the formal liturgy of the feast, in many cultures it is grandly celebrated in homes with any number of customs. In Mexico, one final Christmas feast is shared and a wreath-shaped cake is prepared with a small doll baked in...whoever gets the piece of cake with the doll has to host the party next year! In many European countries and in some North American communities, the front door of the home is blessed by writing in chalk the initials of the traditional names given to the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, all set within the digits of the new year, so it would look something like this: 20+C+M+B+26. In many places, children set out their shoes before going to bed and upon awakening find them filled with sweets or small gifts. (This also is done in many places on the feast of Saint Nicholas on December 6th). In many cultures, processions abound, including here in Ecuador where no *Pase de Niño* would be complete without at least one set of Magi elegantly portrayed by children with flowing silk robes, turbans, and long fake beards. These and so many other such customs on this day are all great fun and a wonderful way, in particular, to teach children that this is a very important day of faith and blessing.

The feast of the Epiphany, of course, is more than just remembering the Magi and their visit to Bethlehem. It is also the day that we celebrate the Light of God being made manifest in a darkened world in Jesus the Christ. This Light was not just for the Jewish people, it is for all peoples at all times. What Jesus brings to us is good moral teaching, yes, and an example of great love, yes, but also he brings into our fractured world the healing presence of God now among us...God no longer distant in a far away heaven, but God who lives among us among the dust and darkness, the illness and disease, the failures and sins. He touches us here...in our world...and this divinity among humanity is the Light made manifest that we most truly celebrate today.

Father Kevin to be Away in January

Father Kevin will be away from Cuenca for about ten days later in January. He will be visiting his former parish 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, and the intercessions, will be in English.

Liturgy Tid-Bit: Respecting the Word

It has long been the teaching of the Church that the True Presence of Christ in the Mass is three-fold: in the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist, in the Word proclaimed, and in the gathered Faithful themselves. Each is a mystery of immense profundity and deserves profound respect.

Today, let's talk just a bit about the respect that is owed to the Word of God Proclaimed. Church communities are to train those who proclaim the Word so that they do so with clarity, understanding, and with the ability to make the meaning of the words "come alive" (though they are already *alive* just by their nature as Scripture!). Parishes also are to provide the technology necessary to project the voices of the lectors so that they can be well heard throughout the church building. And there is something more we should be very attentive to: respecting the Word by not distracting in any way from its reception among the faithful. This includes, not wandering about looking for a seat while the Word is being proclaimed, not "reading along" from screens or missalettes unless absolutely necessary, not rustling papers or rummaging through purses, etc. All attention should be intensely focused on the Word being proclaimed among us and nothing should be done to distract us... for it is the Presence of Christ among us!

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.
- 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 FACING ANOTHER VERY SERIOUS SURGERY SOON.
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL BE SOON TRAVELLING: **CHRYSSTAL HOLLEY**, **ELFREIDE DECLUE**, **OMAR FIGUEROA**.