



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

Third Sunday of Advent-A, December 14, 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,
Presider of the English-
Speaking Catholics of
Cuenca. Contact Father
Kevin by text message at:
WhatsApp: +1 509-991-

2411.

Or by email: 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
- ❖ 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



Gaudete ~ Rejoice!

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I
say, rejoice!**

The opening words of this Sunday's
liturgy lift us from the solemn spirit of
penitence of the Advent season into
the extraordinary joy of knowing that

the Lord is near! May the joy of this Sunday, represented by the
rose-colored vestments and Advent wreath candle, grow ever
deeper in our hearts knowing that God is saving us even now.

Christmas Day Mass

**Our Christmas Mass in English will be
celebrated on Christmas morning,
December 25, at 10:00 am.**



Christmas Party!

Our Christmas gathering this week will be at the home of William
and TaeSuk Harper in Duk Duk, Paute, **Monday, December 15th**.
We have reserved a van for those who have indicated they would
like to travel together to Paute. **Please meet on Monday
morning at Father Kevin's apartment building at 10:30**,
Edificio Alqamari, los Capulíes y los Molles, (one block south of
the Grand Colombia Tranvia stop).

Please be on time for departure! The cost of the van is expected
to be \$10/person.

Continuing This Sunday: Offering Procession & Communion under Both Species

Continuing this Sunday, we continue 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 past week, I happened upon two articles in the Catholic press that were quite interesting. The first reported the results of a wide survey of religious affiliation and spirituality among Americans. Though it is too early to make claims of a religious revival in the U.S., at least the rapid *decline* in religiosity has leveled off. Just over half of Americans (55%) now claim to belong to a religion. The “nones”, those who claim no religious affiliation, doubled in size from 2007 at 16% to 31% in 2022. But that number hasn’t moved much in the last few years. The other news, which isn’t a great surprise, is that 83% of those born in 1954 or earlier still identify with a religion. But of young people born between 1995 and 2002, only 55% identify with a religion. The good news here is that the *youngest* people surveyed, born between 2003-2007, have higher religious affiliation (61%) than the generation that preceded them (55% as mentioned).

So that is what is happening in the U.S., what about Latin America where we now live? On the surface, religious devotion seems to be very high here, but a new survey done in all of Latin America shows also that there is both good and not-so-good news. Evangelical Christianity has grown from 4% in 1970 to almost 20% in 2014. That’s not good news for the Catholic Church, but there is still worse news for all religions here: a growing share of Latin Americans, 8%, claimed no religious affiliation in 2014. In 2023, that number had grown to 18%. The percentage of Latin Americans overall who seldom or never attend church is now 25%. There is some good news though: unlike in the U.S, where religious affiliation also tracks with unbelief, most of those in Latin America who say they are not affiliated with a religion *still find religious belief important in their lives*; that number is now at 64%. The fact that they are *still believers* though not church-goers is very different from what has happened in the U.S. It represents an opening for the Church here to re-evangelize those who do not practice their faith, though they still believe, an opportunity we, sadly, have less of in the U.S.

Father Kevin

Special Advent/Christmas Display

A very special display of images of the *Niño Dios*, the child Jesus, is available in Cuenca’s Old Cathedral. It is worth a visit if you have some time wandering about the Parque Calderon in this Advent season! Some of the images are several centuries old.

Liturgy Tid-Bit: Mary’s Advent

One of the primary figures of the Advent season is that of Mary, Jesus’ mother, with whom we join in prayerful waiting as she prepares to give birth to her first-born and only son. Her story will take “center stage” in our Sunday readings on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. As Matthew puts it succinctly: “...she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.”

The season of Advent is also marked by two significant feasts of Mary, the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception* on December 8th, then again just four days later, on December 12th, the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*. The first is a dogmatic feast that highlights God’s selection and preparation of Mary from even before her birth to serve as the pure vessel of his Son.

The second feast honors not so much a dogma, but an *encounter* in which Mary appears among us as a source of strength and courage in a time of horrific loss. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a particularly indigenous apparition, coming to the Nahua (Aztec) peasant, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin shortly after the conquest and decimation of his people by the Spanish, but in a particularly poignant way, the Guadalupe apparition is a gift from Mary to all people who suffer from injustice and it is particularly appropriate that it is celebrated in Advent as all of us wait for the savior to come and free us from whatever enslaves us in our lives.

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 FATHER KEVIN’S FORMER PARISHIONER, **PHILIP ROSE**, WHO DIED THIS PAST WEEK AND FOR HIS WIFE, TERRY, AND THEIR FAMILY.
- AND FOR ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND OF FATHER KEVIN, REV. **SCOTT MCCOLL**, WHO HAS JUST BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA AND HAS NOW BEGUN TREATMENT.
- FOR SUE HAMPTON’S YOUNG GREAT-NIECE, **PENNY**, WHO IS FACING ANOTHER VERY SERIOUS SURGERY SOON.
- FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM ALCOHOLISM AND OTHER ADDICTIONS.
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL BE SOON TRAVELLING: **ELFREIDE DECLUE, CHRYSTAL HOLLEY, OMAR FIGUEROA, SUE AND TAYLOR HAMPTON, AND JEFF TALAGA.**