



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

Second Sunday of Advent-A, December 7, 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 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

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th

We will be celebrating the Solemnity of
the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary on **Monday,**
December 8th, with Mass in Father
Kevin's apartment, 11:00 am. This will
replace the Wednesday Mass next week.



Christmas Day Mass

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

Christmas Party!

Please **mark your calendars** now for our Christmas gathering at
the home of William and TaeSuk Harper in Duk Duk, Paute for
Monday, December 15th.

We have reserved a van for those who have indicated they would
like to travel together to Paute. You can also go to Paute by bus
leaving every half-hour from the *Terminal Terrestre*; we need to
know if you are coming so arrangements can be made to pick you
up at the Paute terminal.

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. Attached to
today's Bulletin is an explanation of the *why* and *how* of
this important practice. For most of us, it is very familiar.

A Few Words from Father Kevin

Dear Friends,

The Holy Father, Pope Leo, is safely back in Rome after his first apostolic visit to both Turkey and Lebanon. Of his journey to Lebanon, he was advised by some to avoid the country since it continues to be an unstable nation and its people still feel the effects of the on-going violence in the Middle East, bombings often taking place there from Israel in its hunt for leaders of Hamas. Pope Leo did not heed that advice, but rather made the trip something really quite extraordinary, maybe even more so because of the suffering the people there have endured for so very long. In the midst of unrelenting violence and war, he made manifest the peace we are called to as children of God. His opening words to the people of Lebanon upon his arrival were the ones we all repeat so often in the liturgy: *Peace be with you!*"

Pope Leo went further, making the complex religious diversity of the nation a sign of peace that the rest of the world should seek as their own. The balance there among various religious and cultural groups is hardly perfect, but they are making a great effort to not let their differences force them into violence, to rule equitably, and to seek together to forge a peaceful and just future for all their people.

The response of the people to Pope Leo's presence among them was enthusiastic, not in a rock star way, but in the way of people who have been forgotten finally finding themselves cared for, seen, and loved.

In his journeys the past weeks, Pope Leo has taken on himself the mantle of pastor of all peoples, willing to go out to them, not just wait for them to come to him. Would that more of our international leaders would follow his extraordinary example and themselves become instruments of peace and reconciliation instead of masters of war and fomenters of division.

As these Advent weeks unfold, Pope Leo reminds us of the great hope we fiercely hold on to that God comes to us bearing peace, joy, and love. *Father Kevin*



Little Brown Envelopes!

Thank you all for your extraordinary generosity in supporting the *Fundación de Santa Maria de la Esperanza* in Chordeleg and Gualaceo. We donated **\$430.85** last Sunday!

Special Advent/Christmas Display

This past week, a very special display of images of the *Niño Dios*, the child Jesus, opened in the 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: The Advent Wreath

As traditions in the Church go, the Advent Wreath isn't a particularly ancient one. Though it may have cultural origins among pre-Christian Germanic cultures, it came into its own as a particularly Christian practice probably sometime in the 16th or 17th century. From the German peoples, it eventually spread to much of the Christian world.

The wreath itself holds deep meaning; as an unending circle, it represents the infinity of the Divine, without beginning or end. Its green boughs symbolize the fullness of the life that comes to us from our God even in the darkest and most "life-less" seasons of the year, and particularly in the new life of the resurrection. The flames of the four candles offer us a reminder that we await the light of Christ in the Incarnation, but each candle has its own significance as well: the first violet candle represents HOPE, the second violet candle symbolizes PEACE, the third rose candle represents JOY, and the fourth violet candle symbolizes LOVE.

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 REMAINS CLOSE TO DEATH THIS WEEKEND.
- FATHER ALSO ASKS FOR PRAYERS FOR HIS GOOD FRIEND IN BELGIUM, **GENE FOLEY**, WHO HAD A SERIOUS FALL AT HOME AND IS NOW HOSPITALIZED.
- 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 THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL BE SOON TRAVELLING: **LINDA SMITH** AND **ROY GROB**, **TINA HATZENBUEHLER**, **TROY WELCH**, **CHRYSTAL HOLLEY**, **OMAR FIGUEROA**, **SUE** AND **TAYLOR HAMPTON**, AND **JEFF TALAGA**.