



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

First Sunday of Advent-A, November 30, 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,
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

And so we begin a new year! ADVENT!

This Sunday is the First of the Advent season and the first of our church's liturgical calendar. For us, this is New Year's Day, though without the fireworks or countdowns till midnight!

The Advent season is a time of quiet, contemplative, tender, hopeful expectation as we await God coming to us (and God not waiting for us to come to him!), in flesh and blood, fully human even while remaining fully divine. Our waiting has a penitential aspect to it, hence the violet color of the season and absence of the Gloria in the Mass: we are called to be ready to welcome him into our lives by freeing ourselves from whatever is dark, selfish, vane, evil in our lives. Our Advent acclamation is filled with hope: *Come, Lord Jesus, Come!*

Beginning This Sunday: Offering Procession & Communion under Both Species

Beginning this Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, we will be initiating two new liturgical practices to better celebrate the Eucharist in our church community.

- The bread and wine to be used in the Eucharist will be 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 will be 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 will be very familiar.

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 that week.



Little Brown Envelopes This Sunday!

Be as generous as you are able in supporting our friends in Chordeleg and Gualaceo!

A Few Words from Father Kevin

Dear Friends,

Earlier this week, Pope Leo began his first journey outside the Vatican and headed to Turkey. Later, he will continue on to Lebanon. It might seem strange to us that he would choose these locations for his first journey; wouldn't he want to visit Chicago or his former diocese of Chiclayo in Peru as his first big trip? Well, obviously, Pope Leo is making a "statement" with his choices, but what kind of statement is it? Actually, he is making two statements but the first is an extremely important one: one of his greatest priorities, as it was with his recent predecessors, is to restore communion with the Orthodox churches. The history behind our "split" in 1054 AD is a long and complicated one that goes back centuries even before 1054 and involves theology, authority, and just increasingly distinct cultures. One of the many issues touches on the words of the Nicene Creed, which is celebrating this year its 1700th anniversary; words were added on the Roman side that were not agreed to by the Eastern Churches. (The offending words: *filioque* or "and the Son" to specify that the Holy Spirit proceeds from *both* the Father and the Son. The original creed only specified the Father).

One step in healing this divide in Christianity would be for the resolution of that particular controversy. When Leo gathered with the Orthodox patriarch and leaders of many other Christian churches at the site of Nicea in Turkey on Friday, they recited *together* the Creed as it had originally been written, without the *filioque*. This was an implicit acknowledgement that we now share the same creed and a great step forward in healing the division between East and West in Christianity. Restoring some kind of formal unity and communion with the Orthodox churches is still has a very long road ahead. One of the major difficulties is that there is not just one Orthodox church, but many and each is *autocephalus*, or has its own head and independence from the others. But long roads are walked one step at a time and what happened in Turkey this week is a very big step along that road, indeed.

Father Kevin

Mujeres Con Exito 2026 Calendars

This Sunday, Diana Bravo, director of *Mujeres Con Exito* will be with us at our coffee hour following Mass to offer for sale their beautiful 2026 calendar and be available to share with us details of the important work *Mujeres Con Exito* does to protect, shelter, and offer professional training to vulnerable women and their children in our community.

As always, the calendars are beautiful this year and proceeds go to fund the many valuable programs of *Mujeres Con Exito*.

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 need to get a count of people intending to travel together to Paute by van so that we can make the van reservation in a timely manner. **Please let Kathy Case or Elfreide DeClue know as soon as possible if you would like to ride up to Paute together in the van.**

You can also go to Paute by bus, departing from *Terminal Terrestre* every half hour or so.

Liturgy Tid-Bit: Advent Violet and Lenten Violet

Did you know that there are TWO violet shades in our liturgical season? Advent's violet tends towards **blue** and is often darker in tone, while Lent's violet tends towards **red** and is usually of a brighter tone. The blue tone reflects our waiting through the night for the dawn of the savior's birth. The redder tone is more purely penitential. Our new chasubles (donated to us by parishes in the U.S.) reflect this distinction.

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 FORMER PARISHIONER OF FATHER KEVIN, **ELSY LUSK**, WHOSE FATHER HAS JUST BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SERIOUS CANCER AND WHOSE MOTHER IS SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA.
- 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**.