



DULCE NOMBRE DE MARIA CATHEDRAL-BASILICA

207 Archbishop Felixberto C. Flores Street • Hagåtña, Guam 96910



November 27, 2020

Dear Archbishop Michael, Clergy and Religious,

I write to you as we prepare for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Santa Marian Kamalen, patroness of Guam and the Marianas. As you know COVID-19 has changed our lives and lives around the world.

The challenges we are experiencing today are different from how we normally do things. In keeping with the protocols issued by the Department of Public Health and Social Services and the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission, we issue the following protocols for this year's Feast of the Immaculate Conception 2020, to safeguard everyone's health so that it may minimize potential exposure to the faithful:

1. The participation by various parishes for the nightly novena and Masses is suspended.
2. Presiders for all Masses will be limited to the Agaña Cathedral-Basilica clergy only.
3. There will be no angels or archangels during the nightly novena and Masses.
4. There will be no lectors, altar servers, or choirs from other parishes.
5. The evening novena and Masses will be solely through the Agaña Cathedral-Basilica ministries.

However, the invitation is open to all the faithful in the Archdiocese who would like to join us at our nightly novena and Masses. Kindly invite your parishioners to join us nightly at the Agaña Cathedral-Basilica at 5PM, or they may also log on to www.aganacathedral.org for daily livestream Masses, including the Cathedral-Basilica Facebook, and at 9:30AM Sunday on KUAM TV Channel 8 and KUAM Facebook.

Thank you for your cooperation and I hope you understand the need for limited participation at this year's annual December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception. As mentioned by the Archbishop there will be no annual procession at the familiar Hagåtña procession. Instead, the procession will be all-inclusive where Our Lady will visit the entire island and cover all parishes.

Please note that we will be releasing the route where the image of Our Lady will travel. We encourage the faithful to not only assemble at their parishes, but throughout the route indicated, while maintaining six-foot distancing with masks. Following the procession while traveling from one parish to another is not permitted by Guam Police due to potential accidents and liability.

The optimum number of cases on island is a motivation for all of us to plead for the intercession of Santa Marian Kamalen at the nine-day novena and Masses, and the December 8 island-wide procession of our Lady.

Yours in Christ,

Msgr. James LG Benavente
Pastor