



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

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NEWS RELEASE

Routes announced for Dec. 8 islandwide visitation of historic Santa Marian Kamalen statue

Monsignor James Benavente and the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica have released the schedule and routes for the islandwide visitation of the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen during the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, December 8.

The information is provided in PDF and JPEG attachments accompanying this announcement. A second document with the schedule of novena and nightly Masses is also attached.

The Archdiocese of Agana announced last month that it will still commemorate the Feast of Santa Marian Kamalen this year. However, instead of the traditional procession in Hagatna, the historic statue of the Blessed Mother will travel to the faithful throughout the island. The change is necessary this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The day will begin at 6 a.m. with a novena and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Michael Byrnes at the Cathedral-Basilica. The statue will leave the Cathedral-Basilica at 7:50 a.m. and will travel through the roads of Guam in an islandwide visitation to all Catholic parishes. At the request of Naval Base Guam, Santa Marian Kamalen will visit the historic Sumay village, cemetery and two chapels.

The vehicle carrying the Santa Marian Kamalen statue will travel slowly past the churches and other sites but will not stop. While Santa Marian Kamalen will visit all the churches, it is strongly encouraged that the faithful line the streets where the Santa Marian Kamalen statue will pass to prevent large clustering.

Monsignor James emphasizes that this islandwide procession with Santa Marian Kamalen will not be a motorcade. To avoid creating traffic congestions that would impact regular motorists, the faithful are strongly asked NOT to organize motorcades that attempt to follow the statue as this may pose safety issues for parishioners while approaching large crowds.

For safety reasons, please also do not attempt to approach the vehicle to touch the statue's glass encasement. Due to the pandemic, the Cathedral-Basilica staff will not be allowed to receive items into their vehicles.

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Novena and Masses began last Monday at the Cathedral-Basilica and are continuing nightly throughout the week. (Schedule is attached).

Monsignor James, Pastor of the Cathedral-Basilica is coordinating the islandwide drive with his team at the Agana parish just as they did last May 2. On that historic day, Archbishop Byrnes reconsecrated our island to the Blessed Virgin Mary in solidarity with the United States mainland and Canada. It was the first time in history that the Santa Marian statue was taken down from her niche for a celebration other than for commemorations on December 8.

Santa Marian Kamalen Advent handkerchiefs are available for free at the Cathedral-Basilica gift shop to wave during the procession.

Sent by the Archdiocese of Agana
Office of Communication