



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

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Note: Mass schedules to be sent soon

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NEWS RELEASE

Archbishop approves updated Protocols; Masses at parking lots set for this weekend, Confession, Anointing of Sick, Baptism can resume with limitations

Archbishop Michael Byrnes today approved updates to the Archdiocese of Agana's Sacramental Protocols, affirming the Church's highly anticipated resumption of some of its sacraments, including celebration of live Masses at parking lots this weekend and where possible, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Baptism.

As announced earlier this week, Guam Catholics will be able to receive Holy Communion as priests at most parishes celebrate Mass with attendees gathered inside their vehicles at church parking lots.

The following may resume with limitation as detailed in the protocols updated by the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission:

1. Mass outdoors with the faithful in their vehicles
2. Confession
3. Anointing of the Sick (non-COVID patients)
4. Baptism

Archbishop Byrnes tasked the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission to work with pastors in updating the internal document which guides priests with the celebration of liturgies and sacraments during this COVID-19 pandemic. For health and safety precautions and following an Executive Order by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, the Archbishop suspended public Masses in our archdiocese last month. In time, in addition to Communion, other sacraments were affected as well.

Masses outside with faithful in their vehicles; Some important points to remember:

- All Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation at this time. However, for those who wish to attend Mass

during this time, the archdiocese reminds everyone that should you have flu-like symptoms or compromised immune systems, you **must** remain home.

- The faithful should remain in their vehicles while Mass is celebrated by the priest using a public address system and in some cases, with Mass livestreaming on the Internet.
- Massgoers will receive the Holy Eucharist from their cars. During Communion, Massgoers will be instructed to exit their vehicles and receive the Eucharist standing by their cars. In a few cases, Communion will be given to attendees as they sit in their cars. However, at all times, the Communion host should be treated with the **utmost sacredness for the Body of Christ** and must not be passed from Massgoer to Massgoer.
- In most cases, the priest and Eucharistic ministers will either approach Massgoers at their cars or Massgoers will be instructed to drive to specific stations during Communion. Distribution of Communion will take place after Mass.
- Your parish priest or staff will give instructions to the faithful before the Mass. Please carefully respect and heed the directions.

The archdiocese will provide further information in follow-up announcements Friday. Please also contact your respective parish for information. A schedule of islandwide parish parking lot Masses will be issued shortly.

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