



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

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NEWS RELEASE

Church to honor Guam's loved ones lost to COVID-19
with special prayers, crosses on All Souls Day at Agana-Cathedral

The Archdiocese of Agaña will honor the 75 people on Guam who have died from COVID-19 (as of this writing) with special prayers and individual crosses at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica on All Souls Day, Nov. 2.

Monsignor James Benavente, Pastor of the Agana-Cathedral announced the news this week as Catholics prepare to remember their dearly departed loved ones during All Souls Day, which is formally known as the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.

Archbishop Michael Byrnes will celebrate the 12 noon Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica on All Souls Day.

Special prayer intentions will be dedicated to the individuals on our island who have died to COVID-19 during this pandemic and crosses made from olive wood will be placed on the altar for each of the victims. No names will be mentioned; however, the crosses will be entrusted to families whose loved ones have died of COVID, as a sign of our prayer and support for them, as well as our belief in the Resurrection.

“We will pray for all our dearly departed who are no longer with us as we do every year on All Souls Day,” said Monsignor James.

“That has always been an important part of our faith. However, this year we felt moved to include special remembrances of the many people who have lost their lives to the virus,” said Monsignor James. “It’s been agonizing for their family and friends and this is a way to share our love and prayers with them.”

In addition to placing remembrance candles on the foot of the altar, the faithful also have the option to place remembrance photos of their loved ones inside the Cathedral-Basilica on All Souls. You may log on to aganacathedral.org/all-souls-day for more information.

Mass to be livestreamed

The faithful may follow All Souls Day Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica through the parish website/Facebook at [Facebook.com/aganacathedral](https://www.facebook.com/aganacathedral) and Website aganacathedral.org.

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Many parishes will celebrate Masses at their churches and include prayers of intentions for the dearly departed on All Souls Day. However, Masses will not be celebrated at the cemeteries this year on All Souls Day in line with a joint announcement made by directors of Catholic and private cemeteries on Oct. 7.

To safeguard against the spread of COVID-19 the directors announced that their cemeteries will be closed on All Souls Day weekend, Saturday Oct. 31 to Monday, Nov. 2. and that All Souls Masses at their sites are cancelled this year.

*Sent on behalf of Monsignor James and the Cathedral-Basilica
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