



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

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March 25, 2022

NEWS RELEASE

Damage to Mt. Carmel Church limited to sanctuary *Structural engineer's damage assessment clears rest of Agat church; Masses to resume on Saturday with walled off areas*

A licensed structural engineer has inspected Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and has determined that recent damage to the church is limited to the sanctuary area. This clears the way for the parish to resume regular Masses inside the Agat church on Saturday, March 26 with a modified worship space.

The sanctuary area will be walled off and a temporary altar will be placed away from the damaged section, below the steps at the same level of the undamaged congregation area and pews. It will be a temporary modification until repairs can take place.

Last Tuesday evening, March 22, a parish volunteer discovered that a big portion of the church's sanctuary floor had caved in, collapsing the sacred marble altar and creating an immediate hazard. The church was sealed off.

Tom Camacho of the engineering firm, Dueñas, Camacho & Associates, Inc. (DCA) performed a thorough damage assessment of Mount Carmel Church. DCA provided its services on an in-kind basis. DCA has advised the archdiocese that other than the immediate sanctuary area, the rest of the church building did not sustain structural damage.

Additionally, though it did not sustain damage from the collapse of the sanctuary, the sacristy will also be temporarily closed.

Archbishop Michael Byrnes and Mount Carmel Pastor, Father Alberto Rodriguez extend heartfelt thanks to Dueñas, Camacho & Associates, Inc. for its professional guidance and in-kind assistance.

We thank God again for protecting all people from harm. The 5 p.m. Mass Saturday at Mount Carmel will be the first since the closure. Sunday Mass is 9 a.m.

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