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Thousands Gather To Mourn Bus Crash Victims

By Courtney Zavala

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HOUSTON -- Eleven people killed in a bus crash were laid to rest in two separate funerals Saturday, KPRC Local 2 reported.

Masses at Our Lady of Lavang and Our Lady of Lo Duc Catholic Churches saw crowds in the thousands as members of the Vietnamese community came to pay their final respects.

"I believe the whole community is very sad about this. This week has been tough. We are feeling very sad and we're here to share and support the family," said Long Nguyen.

The funerals were filled with tradition. Each casket was carried into the church with a procession of family members wearing robes and scarves.

At the front of the line, a family member carried a photograph of the victim.

The victims died suddenly in a bus crash in Sherman, Texas. Seventeen people lost their lives in the crash. They were all on a holy pilgrimage to Missouri.

The sudden and untimely deaths have made many realize how precious life is.

"You find the time you have with your loved one is so precious now because you don't know it could be so sudden. There's just more meaning in each minute now," said Mai Nguyen.

Mai Nguyen is active in the Our Lady of Lavang Catholic church and lost several friends.

"We lost two friends in a prayer group and two in the choir. The lady from the choir had the most beautiful voice. We are very sad," she said.

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