




Come and celebrate Simbang Gabi 2008

SIMBANG GABI is one of the longest and most popular among the Filipino traditions in the Philippines. It is when Catholic churches across the nation start to open their doors shortly before the break of dawn to welcome the faithful to the Simbang Gabi mass. In the Philippines, the custom lasts for nine days, starting on December 16 up to December 24 during which Filipinos attend dawn masses, usually starting at around 4:00 - 5:00 AM. After the mass, families and friends partake of a hearty breakfast of Filipino pastries and delicacies. This practice started centuries ago during the Spanish colonial period. Priests held early dawn masses for the farmers who wanted to attend mass but could not leave their work in the ricefields. These masses were held before daybreak, hence the Filipino term "Simbang Gabi". This nine-day novena culminates with the "Misa de Gallo" at midnight on Christmas Eve to welcome the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Simbang Gabi is not just a tradition that is celebrated because Filipinos need to do so. It is a significant moment not only because it strengthens relationships among family members and the community but also because it is a time when our faith is intensified. This is the time when we mostly feel the presence of the Lord because it is the spiritual preparation for Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ.

Living abroad does not necessarily break the preservation of our Filipino tradition, however, celebrating Simbang Gabi outside the Philippines requires some creative planning on the part of its organizers. In Calgary, because the Filipino community does not have its own church and its members are deeply integrated in the respective parishes where they belong, the success of holding a Simbang Gabi novena depends foremost on the availability of parishes willing to host such event. In 2008, ten (10)* parishes have committed to celebrate the Simbang Gabi, **(*Please note that there are two churches, namely St. Patrick and St. Famile celebrating Simbang Gabi simultaneously on Saturday, December 13, 2008.)**



*We invite everyone
to celebrate and share
in this beautiful tradition*

Participating churches include:

Dec 06 (Sat) – Holy Trinity

7:00 PM Carolling, 7:30 PM Mass

Dec 07 (Sun) – Corpus Christi

6:30 PM Carolling, 7:00 PM Mass

Dec 11 (Thu) – St. Bernadette

6:30 PM Carolling, 7:00 PM Mass

Dec 12 (Sat) – St. Mark

6:30 PM Carolling, 7:00 Mass

Dec 13 (Sat) – St. Patrick

7:00 PM Carolling, 7:30 Mass

Dec 13 (Sat) – St. Famile

7:00 PM Carolling, 7:30 PM Mass

Dec 14, (Sun) – St. Thomas More

7:00 PM Carolling, 7:30 PM Mass

Dec 19 (Fri) – Ascencion Church

7:00 PM Carolling, 7:30 PM Mass

Dec 20 (Sat) – Sacred Heart

6:30 PM Carolling, 7:00 PM Mass

Dec 21 (Sun) – Canadian Martyrs

7:00 PM Carolling

7:30 PM Misa de Aguinaldo


Fellowship (Potluck) follow after mass.

For information, call:

Roly Castilla (403) 265-1025

Fanny de Leon (403) 293-6549

Evelyn Sorzana (403) 293-1830



*St. Thomas More Parish
invites you to celebrate
Simbang Gabi
on Sunday, December 14, 2008*

215 Templebow St. NE, Calgary, Alberta

7:00 p.m. Caroling

7:30 p.m. Mass

8:30 p.m. Fellowship (Potluck)

SIMBANG GABI is one of the longest and most popular among the Filipino traditions in the Philippines. It is when Catholic churches across the nation start to open their doors shortly before the break of dawn to welcome the faithful to the Simbang Gabi mass. In the Philippines, the custom lasts for nine days, starting on December 16 up to December 24 during which Filipinos attend dawn masses, usually starting at around 4:00 - 5:00 A.M. After the mass, families and friends partake of a hearty breakfast of Filipino pastries and delicacies. This practice started centuries ago during the Spanish colonial period. Artists held early dawn masses for the farmers who wanted to attend mass but could not leave their work in the ricefields. These masses were held before daybreak, hence the Filipino term Simbang Gabi! This nine-day novena culminates with the "Misa de Gallo" at midnight on Christmas Eve to welcome the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Please join us in celebrating Simbang Gabi in Calgary at the following churches:

Saturday, Dec 06 – Holy Trinity

Sunday, Dec 07 – Corpus Christi

Thursday, Dec 11 – St. Bernadette

Friday, Dec 12 – St. Mark

Saturday, Dec 13 – St. Famile and St. Patrick

Sunday, Dec 14 – St. Thomas More Church

Friday, Dec 19 – Ascencion Church

Saturday, Dec 20 – Sacred Heart

Sunday, Dec 21 – "Misa de Aguinaldo" @ Canadian Martyrs

For information, call:

Fanny de Leon (403) 293-6549

Evelyn Soriano (403) 293-1830

St. Thomas More Office (403) 285-3773