



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI21  
A.Y. 2021-2022

**TO :** THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

**FROM :** OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**RE :** SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PRINCIPAL  
PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

**DATE :** 3 DECEMBER 2021

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The Catechism of the Catholic Church (cf. nos. 490-491) states that “to become the mother of the Savior, Mary ‘was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.’<sup>1</sup> The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as ‘full of grace’ (Lk 1:28). In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.” In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.<sup>2</sup>

The University, through the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs and the Center for Campus Ministry, and the Santísimo Rosario Parish-UST will celebrate the following Masses in honor of the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Principal Patroness of the Philippines**, and of the *Archdiocese of Manila*:

1. **December 7 (Tuesday) | 4:00 pm**  
*Institutional Mass for the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
2. **December 8 (Wednesday) | 7:30 am; 9:00 am; 4:00 pm and 5:30 pm**  
*Masses in honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

The Masses will be live-streamed through the official Facebook pages of the University (UST1611official) and the Parish (SantisimoRosarioUST).

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<sup>1</sup> Second Vatican Council (1965), *Lumen Gentium, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, no. 56.

<sup>2</sup> Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus* (1854): DS 2803: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”

Furthermore, on 8 December 2021, the *Dominican Province of the Philippines* celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary. We likewise recall on this day, the *Reconsecration of the Altar of the Santísimo Rosario Parish Church* twenty-two years ago. In the Universal Church, December 8, this year, marks the *conclusion of the Year of Saint Joseph*.

*For those who will virtually participate:* The Masses will be live-streamed through the official Facebook pages of the University (UST1611official) and the Parish (SantisimoRosarioUST).

*For those who will physically attend:* All Thomasians and parishioners are enjoined to observe the basic health protocol against the COVID-19 virus, and the directives of the University, the City of Manila and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

December 8 is officially declared as a *special non-working holiday*<sup>3</sup> in the Philippines, and has been observed as a NO-CLASS, NO WORK DAY by the University to provide the members of the Thomasian community the opportunity to observe this **holy day of obligation**<sup>4</sup> for the Catholic faithful.

God bless you!

  
FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, O.P., EHL  
Secretary-General

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<sup>3</sup> Republic Act no. 10966 was signed by Pres. Rodrigo Duterte on 28 December 2017: "An Act Declaring December 8 of Every Year A Special Non-working Holiday in the Entire Country to Commemorate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Principal Patroness of the Philippines."

<sup>4</sup> Code of Canon Law no 1247: "On Sundays and other **holy days of obligation**, the faithful are obliged to assist at Mass. They are also to abstain from such work or business that would inhibit the worship to be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the due relaxation of mind and body."