



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI25
A.Y. 2021-2022

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

RE : *Simbang Gabi*, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas), and the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy
Mother of God

DATE : 10 DECEMBER 2021

*Simbang Gabi*¹ is a typical Filipino way of spiritually preparing for the great *Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*. It is an expression of the filial devotion of the Filipinos to the *Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God*. For nine consecutive days, Filipinos join and accompany her, so to speak, as she awaits the birth of her Son. For this reason, the Masses on these days are celebrated as solemn votive Masses in her honor.

The Santísimo Rosario Parish-UST and the University shall celebrate the following Masses at the *Plaza Mayor*, in front of the UST Main Building:

A. SIMBANG GABI

- December 15, 2021 (Wednesday) | 7:00 PM
- December 16, 2021 (Thursday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 17, 2021 (Friday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 18, 2021 (Saturday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 19, 2021 (Sunday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 20, 2021 (Monday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 21, 2021 (Tuesday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 22, 2021 (Wednesday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 23, 2021 (Thursday) | 4:30 AM and 7:00 PM
- December 24, 2021 (Friday) | 4:30 AM

¹ The tradition of *Simbang Gabi* has been brought to us by the Spanish evangelizers from Mexico. Originally, it popularly came to be known as *Misa de Aguinaldo*. *Aguinaldo* means 'gift', gift which is peculiar to Christmas (cf. Cardinal Tagle, Luis Antonio, *Guidelines on the Celebration of 'Simbang Gabi' in the Archdiocese of Manila*, 2013).

B. SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

- *Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord*
December 24, 2021 (Friday) | 10:00 PM
Presider and Homilist:
Very Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, OP
Prior, Priory of St. Tomas Aquinas
- *Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*
December 25, 2021 (Saturday) | Holy Day of Obligation
7:30 AM | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM

C. SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

- *Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*
December 31, 2021 (Friday) | 6:00 PM
Presider and Homilist:
Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, OP
Rector, University of Santo Tomas
- *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*
January 1, 2022 (Saturday) | Holy Day of Obligation
7:30 AM | 9:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM

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).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!


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