



# UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI45

A.Y. 2023-2024

**TO :** THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

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

**RE :** *SIMBANG GABI*, SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD,  
AND THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

**DATE :** 8 December 2023

*Simbang Gabi* is a typical Filipino way of spiritually preparing for the great **Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World**, who is the great gift or “*Aguinaldo*” of Christmas.<sup>1</sup> It is also an expression of the filial devotion of the Filipinos to **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 honor of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**.

In this regard, the Santísimo Rosario Parish and the University shall celebrate the following Masses:

### A. *SIMBANG GABI*

- The 8:00 PM Masses shall be held at the UST Chapel.
- Depending on the weather condition, the 4:30 AM Masses shall be held at the *Plaza Mayor*, in front of the UST Main Building, or the UST Chapel.

❖ December 15, 2023 (Friday)	8:00 PM
❖ December 16, 2023 (Saturday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 17, 2023 (Sunday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 18, 2023 (Monday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 19, 2023 (Tuesday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 20, 2023 (Wednesday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 21, 2023 (Thursday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 22, 2023 (Friday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 23, 2023 (Saturday)	4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
❖ December 24, 2022 (Sunday)	4:30 AM

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

#### 1. Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

December 24, 2023 (Sunday) | 10:00 PM | UST Chapel

*Presider and Homilist:* Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, OP,  
Rector, University of Santo Tomas

<sup>1</sup> cf. Tagle, Luis Antonio, *Guidelines on the Celebration of ‘Simbang Gabi’ in the Archdiocese of Manila*, 2013.



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**2. Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

December 25, 2023 (Monday) | *Holy Day of Obligation* | UST Chapel  
6:00 AM | 7:30 AM | 9:00 AM | 10:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM | 7:00 PM

**C. SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**1. Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

December 31, 2023 (Sunday) | 6:00 PM | UST Chapel  
*Presider and Homilist:* Very Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, OP  
Prior, Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas

**2. Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

January 1, 2024 (Monday) | *Holy Day of Obligation* | UST Chapel  
6:00 AM | 7:30 AM | 9:00 AM | 10:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM | 7:00 PM

*Please see attached copy of the Circular on Misa de Aguinaldo/ Simbang Gabi and Christmas Eve Masses of the Archdiocese of Manila.*

Furthermore, the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission of Manila prepared the following family prayers, in English and Filipino (*See attachments*):

1. Family Prayers for Advent
  - a. Blessing of Advent Wreath; and
  - b. Lighting of Advent Candles.
2. Family Prayers for Christmas
  - a. Blessing of the *Belén*, *Parol* and Christmas Tree;
  - b. Blessing and Veneration of the Image of the Infant Jesus; and
  - c. Blessing of Homes at the Beginning of the Year.

Let us encourage everyone to pray together as families so that the seasons of Advent and Christmas will be occasioned by meaningful encounters with the Lord.

May the joy of Christmas linger in our memories and inspire us to carry the spirit of generosity into the coming year. Wishing each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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**FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, OP**  
Secretary-General