



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI32  
A.Y. 2024-2025

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 : 12 December 2024

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*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, 2024 (Sunday) 8:00 PM
  - ❖ December 16 to 23, 2024 4:30 AM and 8:00 PM
  - ❖ December 24, 2024 (Tuesday) 4:30 AM
- Please see attached copy of the Circular on *Guidelines for Misa de Aguinaldo/ Simbang Gabi and Christmas Eve Masses* of the Archdiocese of Manila (Attachments no. 1).

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

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

December 24, 2024 (Tuesday) | 10:00 PM | UST Chapel

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

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

December 25, 2024 (Wednesday) | *Holy Day of Obligation* | UST Chapel  
6:00 AM | 7:00 AM | 8:30 AM | 10:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM | 7:00 PM

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



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

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

December 31, 2024 (Tuesday) | 6:00 PM | UST Chapel

*Presider and Homilist:* Very Rev. Fr. Rodel E. Aligan, OP

Prior, Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas

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

January 1, 2025 (Wednesday) | *Holy Day of Obligation* | UST Chapel

6:00 AM | 7:00 AM | 8:30 AM | 10:00 AM | 4:00 PM | 5:30 PM | 7:00 PM

Furthermore, the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission of Manila prepared the following liturgy guides (*See attachments*):

1. *Misa de Aguinaldo 2024 (English)* (Attachment no. 2a).
2. *Misa de Aguinaldo 2024 (Filipino)* (Attachment no. 2b).
3. *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)* and *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God* (Attachment no. 3a).
4. *Dakilang Kapistahan ng Pasko ng Pagsilang ng Panginoon at Dakilang Kapistahan ni Maria, Ina ng Diyos* (Attachment no. 3b).

Ever thankful for God's boundless love, we echo the psalmist: *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever"* (Psalm 107:1). Ever hopeful, we trust in the Savior's promise: *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy"* (Luke 2:10). May gratitude and hope prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, the Light of the world.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Thank you.

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