

10 July 2010

Dear Friends,

Come and celebrate Simbang Gabi, a rich Filipino tradition and a religious cultural celebration of anticipating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Simbang Gabi literally means "night worship". Historically, this special religious service began at dawn and so obviously it came to be known as Misa de Gallo or Mass of the Rooster. However, with the passing of time, it became a challenge for many people to attend this service at that time; the needs of people and their work schedules began to conflict with each other. And so in order to accommodate the many concerns, this observance gradually evolved into becoming a celebration which moved from early morning to evening.

Simbang Gabi is a nine day preparation for Christmas, which begins on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 and ends on Thursday, December 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Church.

Simbang Gabi introduces to our parish community this beautiful Filipino tradition. I believe that it offers an added dimension in our Parish with a cultural expression of Filipino faith. It serves as a tool for evangelization to invite others who share this heritage to reintegrate themselves as people of God. It manifests their identity in the Parish and provides opportunities towards building a greater community.

Parols or lanterns are used to signify the Star of Bethlehem and are a symbol of Filipino heritage and their presence. They love music and I hope that they use this gift to enhance this celebration. Special hymns are sung at these Masses. Filipino food will be served on the 1st and 9th day in the Cafeteria. You are invited to come and taste the variety of dishes.

I invite and encourage you to respond and participate wholeheartedly in Simbang Gabi. Please support this venture and help with one of the committees such as Finance, Liturgy, Publicity, Dinner and other committees that may need assistance.

Rev. Fr. Agnel Jose De Heredia
Pastor