



KONSULADO PANLAHAT NG PILIPINAS

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Consulate General
New York

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Simbang Gabi Sa Konsulado 2005



For Catholic Filipinos, one of the much-awaited religious devotions is the nine consecutive pre-Christmas dawn masses called “Simbang Gabi.”

Also known as the Misas de Aguinaldo (Masses of the Christmas Gift), this tradition is known to have been introduced by Augustinian Spanish missionaries in Mexico in the late sixteenth century. It was a custom called Posadas (“Inns”), a novena for the last nine days of Advent commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The Posadas symbolically re-enacted the Holy Family’s search for shelter in Bethlehem through a procession. In 1587, the Augustinians obtained for Mexico a papal decree authorizing a series of nine votive Masses from December 16 to December 24. Dramatic representations of the Nativity took place together with the novena Masses. The Misas de Aguinaldo were celebrated around five in the morning and became popular in Latin America and, later, the Philippines.

In keeping with this unique tradition, the Philippine Consulate General together with the following hosts organizations, invite all Filipinos and friends to attend the Simbang Gabi Sa Konsulado”. Masses start on Wednesday, 14 December 2005 through Thursday, 22 December 2005 at 6:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. for Saturday and

Sunday at the Philippine Center, 556 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10036. A light salu-salo will be served after the mass:

See back please

SPONSORS FOR THE 2005 SIMBANG GABI SA KONSULADO

DATE	ORGANIZATIONS
14 Dec. – Wednesday	U.N. SRC Philippine Cultural Society and Coalition of Alumni Associations: Assumption College Alumnae Association Abroad De La Salle University Alumni Association of the East Coast San Beda Alumni Association St. Scholastica's College Alumnae Association of the East Coast Ateneo Alumni Association St. Theresa's College Alumnae Association College of the Holy Spirit Alumnae Association Colegio De San Juan De Letran Alumni Association Maryknoll College Alumni Association
15 Dec. – Thursday	Philippine American Communities Executive Council (PACEC)
16 Dec – Friday	New York Jaycees Filipino-American Human Services, Inc. Collaborative Opportunities for Raising Empowerment Diverse City Theatre Kalusugan Coalition
17 Dec. – Saturday	Philippine American Association of Connecticut Eastern Tagudinians Association, Inc. Association of Filipino Teachers of America Paaralan sa Konsulado; Parents Auxiliary Council
18 Dec.- Sunday	San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila Group Filipino Apostolate of St. Patrick Community of Long Island City, Astoria Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey Philippine Nurses Association of New York Lipeños East Coast Association
19 Dec. – Monday	University of the Philippines Alumni Association, New York Chapter National Association of Filipino Americans
20 Dec. – Tuesday	Cavinti Laguna Manhattanites Lions Club
21 Dec. – Wednesday	Philippine American Friendship Committee Devotees of Peñafrancia Bicolandia Association Garden State Filipino American Association, Inc. Philippine Women's University Alumni Association SOP Empire State Medical Lions Club Philippine National Bank
22 Dec. – Thursday	Philippine Consulate General Philippine Center Management Board National Federation of Filipino American Associations Eastern Region Philippine Independence Day Council, Inc. La Comunidad de Zamboanga DISH Network / Mabuhay Channel

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