

Simbang Gabi

NOVENA

December 19, Thursday, at 7:30 PM

St. Anne Church

325 Second Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey



You and your Family will be offered at the Simbang Gabi Novena and throughout the Christmas Season

Benefactor Love Donation

Hermana/Hermano—\$100

Sponsor—\$50

For Details please contact:

Fr. Robert Lamirez 848-228-6876 or Edwin Abano 732-762-8678

SIMBANG GABI

LIGHTING THE WAY TO CHRISTMAS: SIMBANG GABI BRINGS FILIPINO COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WORLDWIDE

The Filipino tradition of **Simbang Gabi**, a nine-day novena of Masses leading up to Christmas, is rich in spiritual and cultural significance. In the Philippines, it begins on December 16 and concludes on December 24, with the final Mass traditionally celebrated at dawn, referred to as **Misa de Gallo** or the "Mass of the Rooster." However, in Filipino communities abroad, such as in the U.S. and parts of Europe, adaptations have been made to accommodate local schedules and customs.

MARIAN EMPHASIS IN SIMBANG GABI

Simbang Gabi is not only a liturgical practice but also a profound **Marian devotion**. This connection enriches the tradition in several ways:

- **Votive Masses:** Each of the nine Masses is a votive celebration in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, reflecting her role as the model of faith and obedience in Advent.
- **Liturgical Symbolism:** The use of **white vestments** and the singing of the **Gloria** emphasize joy and Marian themes, signifying her unique role in the joyful anticipation of Christ's birth.
- **Marian Hymns and Prayers:** Incorporating songs like "*Ave Maria*" or "*Maria, Bukang-Liwayway*" reinforces the focus on Mary's virtues and her intercessory role.