

PARISH EVENTS

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH WELCOMES SIMBANG GABI

Advent Novena of Masses

Friday, December 21, 2018 7 PM—Church • 8 PM Reception —Parish Hall



Simbang Gabi is a tradition held by Filipino Catholics to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Also known as *Misa de Gallo* (“Mass of the Rooster”), the tradition began in the 1600s in the Philippines where church bells would start ringing as early as 3:00 a.m. during the last nine days of Advent leading up to Christmas. The bells and the loud crowing of the roosters awakened the townspeople for 4:00 a.m. or 5:00 a.m. Mass and allowed farmers and fishermen and their families to go to Mass before they worked in the fields or when they came back from the seas in the early hours of the morning. The Filipino Catholics brought the tradition to the United States. And since the cold December weather would not allow them to celebrate at dawn, the celebration was held at night. Thus, the tradition became known as Simbang Gabi, which literally means **“Night Mass.”**

The *Monmouth County Simbang Gabi Community* invites *all* to the 9 consecutive nights of the Simbang Gabi. Each of the 9 Night Masses is held in a different church within Monmouth County. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, December 14 at the Co-Cathedral of Saint Robert Bellarmine, Freehold
Principal Celebrant/Homilist: Bishop David M. O’Connell, C.M., Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton

Saturday, December 15 at Saint Ann Church, Keansburg

Sunday, December 16 at Holy Innocents Church, Neptune

Monday, December 17 at Saint Benedict Church, Holmdel

Tuesday, December 18 at Saint Catharine Church, Holmdel

Wednesday, December 19 at Saint Michael’s Church, Long Branch

Thursday, December 20 at Saint Anselm Church, Tinton Falls

Friday, December 21 at Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Farmingdale

Saturday, December 22 at Saint Joseph Church, Keyport

All 9 nightly Masses will start at 7:30 p.m. and are preceded by Rosary and Confession at 7:00 p.m.

