

Dear Friends in Christ,

This week, we have the opportunity to share in two very beautiful cultural celebrations during this special season of Advent.

On Monday, 12/12, we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrates the appearance of our Blessed Mother to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill. Our Blessed Mother told Juan Diego that she was the mother of the true God and asked that a church be built on that very spot where the cries of the poor and the oppressed would be heard. Our parish celebration will begin early Monday morning at 5:00 a.m. with the singing of the Mañanitas (morning songs of praise) to the Virgin. Later in the afternoon, we will have a Marian Procession at 5 p.m., Rosary at 5:30 p.m., the traditional presentation of the Guadalupe story at 6 p.m., Mass at 7 p.m., followed by food, entertainment, and hospitality in the parish hall. I want to thank all of the Hispanic members of our community who work so hard every year to provide our community with such a beautiful celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

On Thursday, December 15th at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, December 18th at 5 p.m., our parish will celebrate Simbang Gabi. Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a novena of Masses which traditionally were celebrated very early in the morning from December 16th and concluding on Christmas Eve.

Simbang Gabi is part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas, in commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ and honoring our Blessed Mother. The celebration is also seen as a way of requesting blessings from the Lord, as most people believe that if one completes the whole series of nine dawn Masses, wishes will be granted.

Here in South King County the Simbang Gabi Masses are shared by the various parishes. See the bulletin for the full list of Simbang Gabi celebrations in our Deanery.

I want to thank all of the Hispanic and Filipino members of our parish who work so hard every year to provide our community with such beautiful celebrations this time of year.

Advent Joy+

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Tom". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Tom
Pastor