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News Release

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Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church to sponsor "Simbang Gabi" Holy Mass, a popular Philippine tradition

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov 7 - OLV parishioners, Filipino American community leaders from nearby areas and their friends, are invited to attend the Holy Mass commemorating the "*Simbang Gabi*" to be held at *Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church* at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008.

Sponsored by the Philippine Community of OLV and Our Lady of Victory Parish, the "*Simbang Gabi*" is open to all interested parties. *Father Jaime Noel Deslate*, a visiting Filipino priest, will concelebrate the Holy Mass with *OLV Pastor Father David Werning*.

The "*Simbang Gabi*" is a popular Philippine tradition will start December 15 and ends on December 23 in celebrating Christmas and of the coming of the birth of Jesus Christ. Known as the "*Misa de Gallo*" (Rooster's Mass), it is called "*Simbang Gabi*" or "Night Mass", a very important Filipino Christmas tradition. It is considered as the nine-day novena by the Catholic faithfuls. In the Philippines, in some parishes, the masses begin as early as four in the morning; others start in the late afternoon or in the evening. Completing the nine-day novena is a manifestation of the Catholic faith to most devotees.

After hearing the usual mass, Filipino families partake of traditional Philippine Christmas delicacies, either during breakfast, or immediately outside the church where "vendors" offer a wealth of Filipino delicacies, including "bibingka" (sweet rice), "puto bumbong" (purple sticky rice), "salabat" (ginger tea) and "tsokolate" (thick Spanish cocoa).

After the OLV "*Simbang Gabi*," a potluck dinner is being planned at the Hess Auditorium of OLV. Key people are assigned to plan logistics of the "*Simbang Gabi*" preparations

The "*Simbang Gabi*" complete schedules of the Holy Mass which are all held at the District of Columbia start Dec. 15, 2008, Monday at Church of Annunciation; Dec. 16, Tuesday, St. Anne's Catholic Church; Dec. 17, Wednesday, St. Matthews Cathedral; Dec. 18, Thursday, St. Stephen's Catholic Church; Dec. 19, Friday, Epiphany Catholic Church; Dec. 20, Saturday, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church; Dec. 21, Sunday, Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament; Dec. 22, Monday, Nativity/St. Dominic Church; Dec. 23, Tuesday, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church. #

