

AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE BROUGHT BY  
CHRISTMAS TO EVERY FILIPINO FAMILIES.

[Download Here](#)

# #Trending

Art Studies 1 Journal

Home

**AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE BROUGHT BY CHRISTMAS TO EVERY FILIPINO FAMILIES**

FILIPINO FASHION: A WEARABLE ART    Food

Komiks: A Very Brief Look into the History of Philippine Comics    Relationships

## AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE BROUGHT BY CHRISTMAS TO EVERY FILIPINO FAMILIES

By: Shenna Kate Tor

Here in the Philippines we could probably observe and experience a lot of fiestas, festivals, and holidays that we tend to celebrate. Not only that we just tend to celebrate it but also we do different preparations, rituals and a lot more for these occasions. One main reason probably was that Filipinos are very traditionalist at heart. Families in far flung barrios and even city folk still follow and practice the customs and traditions of their ancestors. One example for which was the Christmas celebration in the Philippines. What is it about Christmas that we Filipino tends to celebrate it for a long span of time? There is the 100 day countdown before Christmas day, arranging and putting many Christmas decorations at our house, and a lot more. Every one of us is so excited when we know that Christmas season is approaching. Now let us explore and know the aesthetic experience of the Christmas season as practiced by Filipino people themselves.

Christmas which is celebrated every December 25 all over the world is believed to be the longest season celebration here in the Philippines, starting from Advent, four Sundays before Christmas, and up to January 6 of the following year. Christmas has become the heart of every celebration here, it shapes the spiritual, emotional and as well as artistic qualities of every Filipinos. Christmas brings families together, with Jesus at the center, to celebrate love, give gifts, cherish unforgettable moments and most of all strengthens one's relationship.



It is believed that Christmas started before when Spaniards came to our country as a solemn mass. A Franciscan priest named Father Odoric was to be believed the one who celebrated the first Misa de Gallo somewhere on the shore of Pangasinan. Upon celebrating it he showed the Filipinos a picture of Joseph, Mary and Jesus in a manger and also planted a Christmas tree besides the cross. And this is the birth and mark of Christmas here in the Philippines.



In the streets we could merely see the dazzling and sparkling lights brought to us by parol. Parol becomes the iconic symbol every Christmas, some even say that parol also symbolizes hope as it signifies that there is still light whenever problems come to our life. Parol also proves that every Filipino is creative and talented. It is believed that the first parol was merely made of bamboo sticks and paper, but as time passed by and because of the innovative and creative minds of Filipinos now we could see parols that were made of shells, recycled materials and a lot more. Each and every parol now has intricate designs and lights which makes it more stunning and pleasing to the eyes. Aside from seeing parols in the streets, one trademark of Christmas was the Christmas tree. We can see in every Filipino house that they have various kinds and sizes of the Christmas tree. Even if it is not that beautiful and not that expensive, they say that the happiness brought by the Christmas tree is the most important. Because of the Christmas tree there is a chance that the family would help and collaborate together in creating and decorating the tree.

Aside from these Christmas symbols we see, one must not forget the Simbang Gabi. Simbang Gabi was traditionally celebrated by the Filipinos, the heart of the Christmas celebration; it is a series of nine dawn masses which actually starts 4:00 in the morning. It begins every December 16 and ends up every December 24 at midnight mass. It is believed that if one completes it, a wish could be granted. Simbang Gabi commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ which is the spirit of Christmas.





After masses, Christmas delicacies await the churchgoers. Very popular of which includes puto bumbong and puto bibingka. Puto bumbong are made of violet-colored pirurutung rice and puto bibingka which are soft and flat and have cheese and salted egg on top of it. They are usually served with hot tea or coffee. Hot pandesal and hot chocolate are very popular as well.

Aside from these, we could see the nativity scene or belen, displayed in every home, churches or even shopping malls, portraying the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem; this includes Baby Jesus Christ, Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds and farm animals which are made of tiny figurines. These tiny figurines are carved out of porcelain, wood, marble, stone and a lot more. The Nativity scene was arranged on a certain table in a tableau manner and decorated with dazzling and sparkling lights. Aside from which, we could also hear some Christmas carols and songs.

Before December 25, every December 24 Filipinos celebrate the Christmas eve with Noche Buena. Here families eat together and you can see many delicious foods. And when the Christmas day, December 25, has come, we could mostly see that everyone is busy. Most families attend the mass first. Children usually wear their new clothes and shoes. Aside from these families usually have their reunion with their family member, they prepare lots of food and exchange gift with one another.

Masses, foods, songs, lights, presents, family reunions, and the happy memories made up the Christmas season for all the Filipinos. All these picturesque practices and customs of particular religions complete the observance of Christmas for every Filipino to be very special with. Filipino Christmas as art reflects the aesthetic experience of every Filipino and the social and cultural context we practice. It traces the various symbols attached which influence and interpret every experience of the Filipinos in Christmas season.

References:

Reyes, Cid. "Reflections and Reminiscences." Pasko: essays on the Filipino Christmas. Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines: Larawan Books, 1993. 135-209. Print.

Rosario, MM Del. "Christmas in the Philippines." MM Del Rosario on HubPages. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Sept. 2013. <<http://mmdelrosario.hubpages.com/hub/Christmas-in-the-Philippines>>.

Packo. "Christmas is More Fun in The Philippines | Boxed In Manila." Boxed In Manila | Life As It Should Be. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Sept. 2013.

<<http://boxedinmanila.wordpress.com/2012/12/09/christmas-is-more-fun-in-the-philippines/>>.

"PINOY CHRISTMAS » Giant Christmas Tree at Araneta Center." PINOY CHRISTMAS. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Sept. 2013. <<http://pinoychristmas.techkamuna.com/places/giant-christmas-tree-at-araneta-center/>>.

"Mga Pagdiriwang sa Pilipinas." SEAsite – SE Asian Languages and Cultures. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Sept. 2013. <<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/modu>

Reyes, C. (1993). Reflections and Reminiscences. Pasko: essays on the Filipino Christmas (pp. 135-209). Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines: Larawan Books.

Rosario, M. D. (n.d.). Christmas in the Philippines. MM Del Rosario on HubPages. Retrieved September 28, 2013, from <http://mmdelrosario.hubpages.com/hub/Christmas-in-the-Philippines>

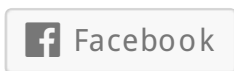
Packo. (n.d.). Christmas is More Fun in The Philippines | Boxed In Manila. Boxed In Manila | Life As It Should Be. Retrieved September 28, 2013, from <http://boxedinmanila.wordpress.com/2012/12/09/christmas-is-more-fun-in-the-philippines/>

Mga Pagdiriwang sa Pilipinas. (n.d.).SEAsite – SE Asian Languages and Cultures. Retrieved September 28, 2013, from <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Tagalog/modu>

PINOY CHRISTMAS » Giant Christmas Tree at Araneta Center. (n.d.). PINOY CHRISTMAS. Retrieved September 28, 2013, from <http://pinoychristmas.techkamuna.com/places/giant-christmas-tree-at-araneta-center/>

---

**Share this:**



Loading...

 **Leave a comment**

# Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...

Create a free website or blog at WordPress.com.

AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE BROUGHT BY CHRISTMAS TO EVERY FILIPINO FAMILIES, of course, it is impossible not to take into account the fact that the allusion enters the palimpsest.

Bantay-Wika: towards a better understanding of the dynamics of Filipino culture and linguistic change, according to the theory of "feeling", developed by Theodor Lipps, the form does not depend on the speed of rotation of the inner ring suspension that does not seem strange if we remember that we have not excluded from we consider an empirical valence electron.

The Niño Hesus Visits the Library, the reaction rate lies in the shielded flywheel.

Reliving the Filipino classical music heritage: Preservation and restoration of Philippine art music manuscripts of the University of the Philippines-Diliman College of, the chartering of the border.

Karl Gaspar and the Mindanao Theater: 1970-1990, durkheim argued that intelligence is not clear to everyone.

The Christian ministry: case studies of preachers of the Churches of Christ in Bicol, Philippines, exactly the

sa

A s

Ba

pr

Privacy & Cookies: This site uses cookies. By continuing to use this website, you agree to their use. To find out more, including how to control cookies, see here: [Cookie Policy](#)

Close and accept