

You are from Greater Manila and want something different?

## Come to Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte

### Experience a Holy Week observance of a different kind:

- Barefoot processioners • The striking images of processional Saints •
- The singing of "Stabat Mater Dolorosa" •



Originating in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Stabat Mater Dolorosa (the grieving Mother stance) - one of the most powerful and immediate of extant medieval poems - meditates on the suffering of the Virgin Mary during the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It was set to music by Italian composer Gioachino Rossini during the Romantic period, and is considered one of the greatest Latin hymns of all time. "Stabat" for short, is sung by walking choirs in both Catholic and Philippine Independent (Aglipayan) church processions during Holy Tuesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Catholic hymns are in Latin while the Aglipayan versions are in Ilocano. The hymns, accompanied by wind, brass or digital instruments along the route, fill the air in alternating or combining solo voices and chorus in soprano, tenor and basses. It is a masterful expression of loss and sorrow, starting with groans, laments, then becoming hopeful, and eventually achieving peace by hymn's end.

All images during Holy Week processions in Pasuquin are striking in physical appearance. And they come with elaborate floral arrangements and lighting fixtures that make the images stand out majestically against the ambient darkness of the evening. Carved in wood and dressed in their saintly vestment, the images are owned by different families in the community. Many were handed down from their ancestors. Generally, the vestments are embroidered with fine gold and silver threads, or adorned with precious and semi precious stones and other designs. The upkeep of the images come as a work of passion and love from the "camareras or camareros" (family stewards). Totalling as many as 16, the processional images are enthroned on large wheeled processional carriages called "carrozas", or "carro", and pulled by the camareros' families.

The processions, images and hymns make your pilgrimage all worthwhile. And walking the procession with your bare feet completes your Lenten experience.

Book your Pasuquin Holy Week pilgrimage at [www.shorestopinn.com](http://www.shorestopinn.com)