



December 1st, 2019
First Sunday of
Advent / A
 see hymnal # 991

Mass and Confession Schedule

(in MIT Chapel)
 Sunday 9:30 AM, 1:00 PM, 5:00 PM
 Monday & Wednesday 7:30 PM**
 Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 12:05 PM**
 Confession after Mass - except Mon. (7 PM)
 **When classes are in session

Office

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Music:

Choir rehearsal 1 hour before Mass
 (2 hours before 1 PM Mass)
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TCC Council Chair

John DiCarlo: johndica@mit.edu

Website

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 Contact: tcc-webmaster@mit.edu

Joining TCC

TCC registration go to
 http://tcc.mit.edu/about-us/contact-us

TCCM is a moderated announcement list for the Tech Catholic Community.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to
 http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/tccm

To post a message in the bulletin or on the TCCM list, send an email to:
 tcc-updates@mit.edu

Receive emails about all our activities by signing up for our other lists at
 http://tcc.mit.edu/www/getinvolved.html#email

Melchizedek Group for Priestly Vocations: Fr. Moloney will lead a discussion group about the nature of the priestly vocation and how to discern if God is calling you to the “order of Melchizedek” (Heb. 5:6, 7:17) using the book *To Save a Thousand Souls*. We meet on Mondays 5-6PM. To attend doesn’t mean that you are thinking about entering the seminary, or even that you’re not dating. It can simply mean that you’re interested in supporting others think about the priesthood. Contact mteodros@mit.edu if interested. Books are available from Father's office in W11.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Course in the Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith: Fr. Moloney will be offering a class in the fundamentals of the Catholic faith on Sundays @ 11:15 AM in W11/SDR.. It is required for those in becoming Catholic, being Baptized, receiving First Communion, or being Confirmed (who should also reach out to Fr. Moloney to set up a time to talk individually (dmoloney@mit.edu)). *NOT happening 12/1.*

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mass: 9:30 AM, 1 PM, 5 PM Donuts in W11 following the Masses	2 3 PM: Adoration 7:30 PM: Mass	3 12:05 PM Mass 3 PM: Adoration	4 7:30 PM Mass, Adoration & Confession	5 12:05 PM Mass	6 12:05 PM: Mass 3 PM: Adoration 7 PM: Spaghetti Supper	7
8 Mass: 9:30 AM, 1 PM, 5 PM Donuts in W11 following the Masses	9 3 PM: Adoration 7:30 PM: Mass	10 12:05 PM Mass 3 PM: Adoration	11 7:30 PM Mass, Adoration & Confession	12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> 12:05 PM Mass 5:15 PM: Span. Mass	13 12:05 PM: Mass 3 PM: Adoration 7 PM: Spaghetti Supper	14

Announcing the St. Monica Society to pray for family members who are not close to the faith. Contact tcc-pc@mit.edu for details.

Women's Marriage Discussion Group. This group meets every other week to discuss marriage as a vocation. It is open to all women (i.e. you do not need to be married). Please email tcc.marriage.vocation@gmail.com for additional details or to be added to the group's listerv. Dinner will be served and kids are welcome!

Integrity@MIT: Do you have trouble staying chaste? Are you tired of failing to live up to your virtues? Join a peer support group of Catholic men struggling for chastity. Contact integrity@mit.edu for more information and times of weekly meetings.

Are you a Graduate Student or Young Professional interested in deepening your Catholic faith and understanding of Scripture? The grad men's and women's groups will be holding weekly Bible studies during the semester. Contact Brandon Roach (roachb@mit.edu) or Aileen Devlin (amdevlin@mit.edu) for more info.

Small Group Bible Studies: Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to join one of the many groups that meet to open the Scriptures and discuss the faith. Contact.. catherine.alex@focus.org or phillip.wulschleger@focus.org

Spaghetti Suppers: Join the TCC every Friday night from 7-9 PM in W11 Comm. Rm for a free spaghetti supper!

Prison Ministry in Boston: MIT Student OPS (Operation Prisoner to Soldier) is an MIT outreach program partnered with TEJI (The Educational Justice Institute). More info and questions contact Jacqueline Pedlow (jpdlow@mit.edu).

Fiat, a group for women interested in learning more about religious life, cordially invites you to the next meeting on December 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Sisters of Saint Joseph, 637 Cambridge St., Brighton, MA. The topic will be “Reflection on Advent.” For more information, contact S. Marian Batho, CSJ at marian.batho@csjboston.org or 617-746-2025. Check out the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FiatForDiscerningWomen

Drop-in Grief Support Group: Tuesdays from 5–6pm in W20-303. Open to students of all religious, spiritual, moral, and ethical viewpoints. See http://calendar.mit.edu/event/life_after_loss_drop-in_support_group

ADVENT IS NOT THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!!!

Lots of people today refer to the period when Jingle Bells is playing in the CVS as “The Christmas Season” or (more frequently) “The Holiday Season.” It’s the time when we are supposed to be “festive.” There are so many parties and cookies and cakes that the average American adult gains one pound each year during the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas (and keeps it on the next year). It is the time of year when people spend so much money that it’s an essential part of the business model of many retailers.

None of this is thinking the way the Church does. Rather, it serves to undermine the meaning of Christmas.

The season of Advent is a time of preparation; the season of Christmas is the festive time. The season of Christmas begins...on Christmas, not before. There ought to be a marked contrast between the tone of Advent and the tone of Christmas:

The Season of Advent	The Season of Christmas
Time to prepare for the Second Coming	Time to celebrate the Birth of Jesus
Time of fasting	Time of feasting
Liturgical color: violet (like Lent, funerals)	Liturgical color: white (like Easter)
Don’t sing the Gloria at Mass	Angels sang the first Gloria to the shepherds
Time of Penance and Confession	Time to celebrate birth of our Savior
Theme of readings: world is passing away	Theme of readings: Peace on earth
Time of almsgiving, sacrifice	Time of family, good cheer
Time of quiet prayer, meditation	Time of louder prayer, singing

Keep in mind that the preparation for Christmas is really limited to the novena before Christmas, starting on Dec. 17. The majority of Advent involves praying for Christ’s *second* coming, rather than remembering his first coming.

Some practical ways to celebrate Advent:

- Call it Advent. That’s the proper name for the liturgical season, so actually use it.
- Choose a mortification for the season, a lesser version of what you choose during Lent. This coincides with the nickname of Advent--the “little Lent.” Perhaps you could give up alcohol or cookies or other sweets, so that when you go to “Christmas” parties, you maintain an appropriate mentality.
- Do something special on Sundays. It’s not easy in the dorms to light Advent candles, but perhaps you could do something to mark the progress of the season with your friends.
- Spend some extra time in prayer. Perhaps make the effort to go to daily Mass, and say the rosary.
- Make a special effort to perform works of mercy, which in certain contexts might simply mean smiling more and sharing your Christian joy with those who are stressed by work.

And then, when Christmas comes around--really cut loose! The Octave of Christmas is 8 days of celebrating the great mystery of Jesus’ Incarnation, so celebrate it accordingly. The contrast between Advent and Christmas should help to make the Christmas season not just a continuation of a month of getting fatter, but a special season focusing on the fact that God became Man in order to save us from our sins. Rather than being exhausted because of weeks of excess, we are prepared to welcome the King of Kings with excitement.