



December 15th, 2019
Third Sunday of
Advent / A
 see hymnal # 997

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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Chaplain

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Music:

Choir rehearsal 1 hour before Mass
 (2 hours before 1 PM Mass)
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Website

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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

Winter Weather Closings: Whenever MIT closes, or whenever the roads are unsafe for Fr. Moloney to make it into campus, it is likely that Mass or other activities will be cancelled. To receive notice that Mass is cancelled, it is important that everyone subscribe to TCCM@mit.edu, our main mailing list. To add yourself to the list go to: <http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/tccm>.

TCC wishes all a blessed, safe and joyous Holiday Season and Break!

The last Sunday Masses will be TODAY, December 15, and will resume on January 12.

Weekday Masses end on Wednesday, December 18, and will resume in January.

How Science Confirms and Complements Catholic Sexual Ethics: Chastity, Psychotherapy, and Neuroscience

This IAP course explores the topic of sexuality and self-mastery from classical philosophical and theological perspectives informed by evidence-based cognitive psychology and contemporary neuroscience. We will discuss how pleasure, reason, emotions, habit, will-power, commitments, love, and freedom coincide and often conflict, and will propose a framework for answering current questions. Professor: Fr. Robert Gahl, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Ethics at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce) in Rome. Five classes between 1/15-1/22, 6-8:30 pm, dinner provided. For more info, see <http://student.mit.edu/iap/ns372.html>

Give TCC a Christmas Gift: As is well known, the Tech Catholic Community is supported entirely by students, alumni, and parents—the Archdiocese of Boston cannot provide any money for the chaplaincy. The easiest way to give is through the TCC website: tcc.mit.edu/donate. Please be generous, and consider making an automatic monthly donation.

TCC Winter Retreat: *Save the date* - February 14 - 16, 2020. TCC is planning the Winter Retreat at the Betania II Spiritual Life & Marian Center in Medway, MA. Space is limited. Keep the weekend free and watch for more details.

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mass: 9:30 AM, 1 PM, 5 PM Donuts in W11 following the Masses	7:30 PM: Mass	12:05 PM Mass	7:30 PM Mass, Adoration & Confession			21

Melchizedek Group for Priestly Vocations: *Ended for this semester, and will resume with the Spring semester.*

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)). *Ends 12/15 and resumes with the Spring semester.*

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.wullschleger@focus.org

Spaghetti Suppers: Join the TCC every Friday night from 7-9 PM in W11 Comm. Rm for a free spaghetti supper! *Ended, and will resume with the new semester.*

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).

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

Our Spiritual Journeys Continue during Vacations

Vacations can be a time of significant spiritual growth—or of spiritual backsliding! We have more time to pray and study the faith than during the school year—but we also lose the spiritual community and the routines we’ve developed at MIT that support our Catholic life here. It’s important to take some time at the beginning of a vacation to plan out a schedule for the days and weeks ahead, one that reflects our priorities: God first, our neighbors and families second, our selves third, and our work and everything else in the fourth place. Here are some suggestions:

Putting God in the first place:

Go to Mass over break. You have to go to Mass on Christmas, January 1, the Epiphany, and on every Sunday when you are home--these are Holy Days of Obligation. It’s also not a bad idea to try to go more often. The eight days after Christmas make up an octave (liturgically, it’s as though there are eight days of Christmas, not just one), and there are a bunch of big feast days right after Christmas (Holy Innocents, St. Stephen, St. John). Make the effort to go be with our Lord (He’s the reason for the season, after all).

Go to confession at least once. Again, when you have more time, there’s less of an excuse not to take care of these important spiritual needs. Typical temptations on breaks are to gluttony, sloth, and (if your family knows how to push your buttons) anger. But we can always confess a lack of love for Christ when we become aware of it.

Examine your conscience daily/Keep a spiritual notebook or journal. The best time to examine your conscience is usually at night. This is always a good practice, but especially when we’re outside the comfort of our routines, we need to take a look at our day and ask, “What did I do well from God’s perspective today, and what did I do poorly? What can I do better tomorrow?” Write your thoughts somewhere—in a spiritual journal or your phone—and review them before you go to confession.

Consider going on a spiritual retreat. We usually need a few days to get away from everything and take stock of our spiritual lives. Vacations often present a convenient time to do this.

Read the Bible. If you’ve never read a book of the Bible from start to finish, now is a good time. Start with a Gospel, then the Acts of the Apostles, then other books of the New Testament, and the Old Testament. Shoot for at least five minutes each day.

Study your faith. Read the Catechism for a few minutes each day (the fourth part, on prayer, is a good place to start). Check out classic spiritual works (*The Imitation of Christ*, *The Story of a Soul*), biographies of saints, Church history or whatever interests you. Check out the resources on TCC.FORMED.ORG (our code is: **J8VGDK**).

Feast on feast days! These are the times God wants us celebrating, so have fun!

Loving your families and neighbors:

Make time to talk to your parents. You’ve been away in a world that they can’t really understand, and you’ve changed in ways that they might not notice. Now that you’ve left home you have to be more intentional about nurturing your relationships with your family, especially your parents. Reintroduce yourself to them. Go out for coffee or a walk, and talk about your dreams, your fears and aspirations--and ask them about theirs. Show them how much you’ve matured in the last few months, and work out a new, more adult, way of relating to them.

Have a mentality of serving your family. Volunteer to make your bed, do the dishes, drive your little sister to the Mall. Look for ways to make their lives easier, as a concrete way of keeping the fourth commandment.

Do some act(s) of service. Plan on doing the corporal or spiritual acts of mercy while on break. One good idea is to go through your stuff, and donate to charity all the things you haven’t needed in the last year.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas, and I will see you in the New Year!

Fr. Moloney