TCC wishes all a blessed, safe and joyous Holiday Season and break!
The last Sunday Masses will be TODAY, Sunday 12/17, and will resume on January 14.
Weekday Masses ended on Friday, December 15, and resume on January 22.

Please remember the Holy Days of Obligation:
• 12/25 Christmas
• 1/1 Mary Mother of God
• 1/6 Epiphany (Some Dioceses move it to Sunday)

Mass Schedule for Area Churches during the Winter Break: Please see our website!

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.

FOCUS Bible Study: Interested in forming deep friendships and getting to know the mind and heart of Jesus Christ through His Word? Sign up for a weekly Bible study! Contact the FOCUS missionaries at lisa.driscoll@focus.org or 720-938-7692. Check the bulletin or email the missionaries for the Bible Study schedule during IAP.

TCC Winter Retreat: Save the date - February 16 - 18, 2018. 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.

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: http://tcc.mit.edu/www/donations.html. Please be generous, and consider making an automatic monthly donation.

Register for FORMED.ORG: The TCC has received a grant to provide access to FORMED.ORG — the Augustine Institute’s online gateway to a whole bunch of Catholic formational content, including podcasts, videos (many pitched at children), and e-books. (Think of it as a Catholic version of Amazon Prime). To register for free, go to https://formed.org/home?code=J8VGDK and enter your email.

Graduate Student Email List: Join the tccgrads email list (go to MIT’s WebMoria list manager) to hear about upcoming events for TCC graduate students.

Spaghetti Suppers: Join the TCC every Friday night from 7-9 PM in the W11 Community Room for a free spaghetti supper! This is a time for food, fellowship, and fun. End of semester and will resume on Jan. 12.

BBMSK (Back Bay Mobile Soup Kitchen): We serve homeless communities in Back Bay and Cambridge giving out socks, sandwiches, and a friendly presence to folks we come across on the street. When? 6:00 PM on Tuesdays at W11 or 6:00 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays in front of St. Clement’s Shrine. For more info, visit bbmsk.org!

Want to join the Choir? Contact Piotr Suwara (suwara@mit.edu).

The following programs ended for this semester: (as last blurb)
• FOCUS Bible Study - see info above
• Melchizedek Group - will resume in the new semester
• RCIA - resumes with the new semester
• Spaghetti Supper - resumes on January 12
• Tech Catholic Talk - will resume with the new semester
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, 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 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 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*