

## Focus on Religious Freedom

### Does 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment “Freedom of Religion” Protect Satanism in Public Schools?

An "After School Satan Club" for students in grades 1-5 was approved by the Moline-Coal Valley School District in Illinois on Jan. 10, 2022. Parents and the community are concerned these clubs pose a serious danger to children by promoting Satanism as normal and acceptable. The Satanic Temple sponsoring the club claims 1st Amendment religious freedom protections.

However, Satanism is the antithesis of a religion and not eligible for religious protection. "Indeed, protecting Satanism reflects a thought process foreign to the logic of religious freedom in the U.S. Constitution," wrote attorney Gunnar Gundersen. <sup>(1)</sup> "Its goal is to produce a society where religion is no longer viewed as a duty or unalienable right. Thus, granting Satanism religious-freedom protections undermines rather than strengthens religious-freedom rights by directly attacking their foundation: the existence of a Creator who is the source of unalienable rights." <sup>(2)</sup>

***"It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage and such only as he believes to be acceptable to him. This duty is precedent...to the claims of Civil Society." James Madison***

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### Celebrating Authentic Religious Freedom on Long Island

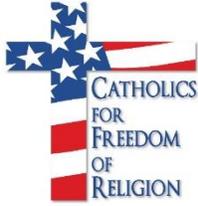
Catholics For Freedom of Religion joined Pastor Liam McDonald of St. Therese of Lisieux Church in Montauk, NY and members of many Long Island, NY parishes who made the pilgrimage to Montauk, to celebrate the annual National Religious Freedom Day on January 16.

Fr. Liam celebrated a Mass, led a Eucharistic Procession through the town of Montauk, and Benediction in petition for the protection of life, also observed every January in the March for Life, and for Religious Liberty which enables Americans to make the choice for life.

"The bright blue Montauk skies, mild temperatures and slight breeze from the Atlantic Ocean resulted in a uniquely-Montauk Eucharistic Procession. Participants experienced a joy-filled public witness to the presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist from inside the walls of St. Therese to the public square of the town of Montauk," said Barbara Samuells, President of Catholics for Freedom of Religion." <sup>(3)</sup>

(thecatholicthing.org, 5/6/17(1)(2); returntoorder.org, 1/23/22; theconversation.com, 3/5/20; bbc.com, 8/23/19; crux.com, 1/19/22; CFFR press release 1/16/22; presidency.ucsb.edu)





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### Does 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment “Freedom of Religion” Protect Satanism in Public Schools?

An "After School Satan Club" for students in grades 1-5 was approved by an Illinois school district causing concern among parents who fear these clubs are a serious danger to children since they promote the idea that Satanism is acceptable and normal.

Satanism is the antithesis of a religion and not eligible for religious protection. "Indeed, protecting Satanism (by appealing to the First Amendment), reflects a thought process foreign to the logic of religious freedom in the U.S. Constitution," wrote attorney Gunnar Gundersen. <sup>(1)</sup>

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