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## Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

**Make a pilgrim's journey to a special place of God's calm and beauty:  
Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pilgrimage for Life and Religious Liberty: Jan. 14**

**Join Us in Montauk, at St. Therese Lisieux Church, to Give Thanks  
For Our Rights to Live Our Faith and to Make the Choice for Life  
Celebrating National Religious Freedom Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024  
Joining the Intentions of the National March for Life**

Holy Mass at 10:30am; Recitation of the Rosary for America;  
Eucharistic Procession through Montauk followed by Benediction  
**Concluding with Fellowship and Hospitality in the Church Foyer**  
**St. Therese Lisieux R. C. Parish, Fr. Liam McDonald, Pastor**  
67 South Essex St.; Montauk, NY 11954  
**Co-sponsored by Catholics for Freedom of Religion**

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## National Religious Freedom Day is Jan. 16

America's founders determined that the citizens of this new nation should be free to exercise their faith in accordance with their consciences, free from government coercion. Jan. 16 marks the anniversary of the passage of Thomas Jefferson's *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom* which is a statement about freedom of conscience and the oppression caused by state established churches. It was the impetus for 1st amendment protections for religious freedom.

Pres. Thomas Jefferson wrote to the Danbury Baptists Jan. 1, 1802, that religion is a matter that lies solely between a man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, and emphasized that the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, expressing the will of the entire American people, places a wall of separation between church and state to protect individual conscience and affirm free religious practice for all citizens free from coercion by the government.

On Oct. 23, 1992, it was resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that January 16, 1993, is designated as "Religious Freedom Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to join together to celebrate their religious freedom and to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Since then each President has proclaimed Jan. 16 to be Religious Freedom Day emphasizing the importance of religious freedom to human rights, to our society, to personal and national stability and to the formation of individual codes of ethics without which a country cannot survive.

Read more here: [bit.ly/47ba0fz](http://bit.ly/47ba0fz) [bit.ly/3RHk50](http://bit.ly/3RHk50) [bit.ly/3TBwSlb](http://bit.ly/3TBwSlb)