

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

March 28, 2023

**SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY: [eoclass@irs.gov](mailto:eoclass@irs.gov)**

Internal Revenue Service EO Examinations  
1111 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington DC, D.C. 20224

Re: St. Patrick's Catholic Church electioneering

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to report concerns of potential illegal political campaigning by St. Patrick's Catholic Church, located at 434 N Main St, Cottage Grove, WI 53527. FFRF is a national nonprofit organization with more than 39,000 members across the country. Our purposes are to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, and to educate the public on matters relating to nontheism.

We were informed by a concerned citizen that in anticipation of the upcoming Wisconsin Supreme Court Election, Pastor Brian Dulli of St. Patrick's Catholic Church explicitly advised parishioners not to vote for "her" in the Supreme Court race on April 4, 2023 in the church's bulletin:<sup>1</sup>

**An Important Decision** Dear Friends, **on Tuesday, April 4, there is an important election for Wisconsin Supreme Court.** On one side of this race, one candidate has tried to make this race entirely an effort to legalize abortion in the State of Wisconsin. Abortion is the intentional taking of a human life. It is murder. Our Catholic faith is clear that this is grave sin. It should never be controversial among Catholic [sic] to say that you can never intentionally take any action that knowingly will help in the taking of a human life. You cannot publicly support abortion or abortion advocates and remain a Catholic in good standing. The fact that this is a Supreme Court race does not exempt us from our duty to protect life. This moment requires our duty. It's a mortal sin to render aid to the cause of abortion. That aid includes voting. **As a Catholic, I urge you, for the salvation of your soul; do not vote for her in the Supreme Court race on April 4.** I encourage you to study the race carefully and form you[sic] conscience correctly in accordance with the truths of the Catholic faith.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court race is between a woman, Janet Protasiewicz, and a man, Daniel Kelly. There can be no mistake that Pastor Dulli is trying to intervene in the Wisconsin Supreme Court election.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://container.parishesonline.com/bulletins/01/0699/20230326B.pdf>

The Internal Revenue Code states that to retain their 501(c)(3) status an organization cannot “participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”<sup>2</sup> In this instance, St. Patrick’s Catholic Church has breached the responsibilities of its tax exempt status by openly opposing a candidate for elected office.

We write to respectfully request that the IRS immediately investigate St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and ensure that it no longer receives the benefits of 501(c)(3) status and that donations made to the church are no longer treated as tax deductible. The IRS should take appropriate action to remedy any violations of 501(c)(3) regulations that occurred or which continue to occur.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher Line  
Staff Attorney  
Freedom From Religion Foundation

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<sup>2</sup> I.R.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)