



All Saints Catholic Church

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July 30, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus! Praised be Jesus Christ!

On behalf of Fr. Michael, our deacons, and our staff members at both All Saints and Saint Jerome, may I offer all citizens of Rossford a happy 125th anniversary as we ask God's blessings on our community at the Lord's Day Masses this weekend.

I'll be away this week for some much needed rest and relaxation, and will return – God willing – this Friday to be back at All Saints for the Lord's Day celebrations next weekend. Fr. Michael will be around this week, though Tuesday is his day off and he will not be available. Since I will be gone, there will be only one Mass each day, as follows:

- Monday, 7/31 @ 8:15 a.m. (All Saints)
- Tuesday, 8/1 @ 6:00 p.m. (Saint Jerome)
- Wednesday, 8/2 @ 8:15 a.m. (All Saints)
- Thursday, 8/4 @ 9:00 a.m. (Saint Jerome)
- Friday, 8/5 @ 8:15 a.m. (All Saints)

Finally, I'd like to devote the remainder of my article this week to some considerations regarding the special election on August 8, which some of you have asked about. While some may see it as the Church being political, let us be mindful that the Church is regarded as both mother and teacher, as Pope Saint John XXIII wrote in 1961, and as the bishops of our nation teach "Our purpose is to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God's truth. We recognize that the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience..." (*Faithful Citizenship* #7). Therefore, please receive the following information from Mr. Kevin Heban, the law director for the City of Rossford (whose guidance I requested), and Bishop Thomas in precisely that context: non-partisan and faithful to the Church's mission of helping form consciences, rather than functioning as your conscience.



Ohio is one of 18 states that allow citizens to place a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot by use of a petition to the State. Issue 1 deals with the procedure to amend the Ohio Constitution by making it more difficult to amend the document by use of the petition process.

Presently, to amend the Constitution, an affirmative vote of 50% plus one person is needed on the issue, a simple majority. If Issue 1 passes, this would be changed to require an affirmative vote of 60% plus one person to amend the Constitution.

Issue 1 also provides stricter requirements for petitions to put changes on the ballot.

Presently, to place an issue on the ballot a petition must contain at least 5% of voters from the last gubernatorial election in at least 44 of the 88 counties in Ohio. If Issue 1 passes, this would be changed to require a petition to contain at least 5% of voters from the last gubernatorial election in all 88 counties.

The passage of Issue 1 would make it significantly more difficult to amend the Ohio Constitution. The question is very simple: do you as an elector feel the Ohio Constitution should be allowed to be amended by a simple majority vote of the electors or do you feel a "super majority," that is 60%, should be required.

Additionally, Bishop Thomas provided the following statement regarding Issue 1, in anticipation of a ballot issue this November that would provide a constitutional right to abortion in the State of Ohio.



Issue 1 will increase the threshold required for any proposed amendment to the Constitution of Ohio from a simple majority vote to at least a 60 percent majority vote in order to pass. Therefore, a "yes" vote on Issue 1 will make it more difficult to pass any future amendment to the Constitution of Ohio, including this November's ballot initiative seeking an abortion constitutional amendment that expands and enshrines abortion at the expense of protections of preborn children and women. A "no" vote on Issue 1 will maintain the current threshold, making it easier to pass an amendment to Ohio's constitution, including the one coming this November on the abortion expansion amendment.

Finally, Mr. Heban suggests the following websites for more information to help us prepare to make an informed decision: VoteYesOhio.com and VoteNoInAugust.org.

Let us entrust ourselves to the Holy Spirit for Wisdom and Right Judgment as we exercise our sacred responsibility of voting.

Sincerely,