



## **AOC strips Jesus completely out of Lent, uses it to gain more followers and promote a cause**

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The congresswoman announced Wednesday that she intended to adopt a vegetarian diet for this year's Lent in memory of fellow New York Rep. Jamie Raskin's son, Thomas "Tommy" Bloom Raskin, who sadly died of suicide at the age of 25 on New Year's Eve.

She added that when she'd proposed the idea to Raskin, he'd asked her to "bring people along with you." And so she was looking for partners to join her in the effort.

Some devout Catholics responded by raising concerns that Ocasio-Cortez was appropriating Lent for a cause unrelated to its true intent, which is to set aside time to reflect on the teachings and lessons of the Christian savior Jesus Christ in the weeks leading up to Easter.

Others questioned the sincerity of Ocasio-Cortez's faith given [her views on abortion](#).

The [Susan B. Anthony List](#) non-profit notes that last year, she voted in favor of a resolution that would have aided the effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

According to the non-profit, the amendment "has been interpreted by courts as installing a sweeping legal mandate for abortion on demand funded with taxpayer dollars, into the United States Constitution."

It's not clear how the congresswoman squares her ostensible Catholicism with her support for this arguably anti-Catholic, anti-Christian amendment.

Some people responded to Ocasio-Cortez's announcement by asking why she wasn't giving up abortion for Lent versus giving up meat:

Jamie said, "Well you'd have to do it the way Tommy would, which means bring people along with you!"

None of this is to suggest that Raskin's life, struggles and pro-vegan activism don't deserve to be recognized and appreciated.

"By the age of 25, Thomas Bloom Raskin had already accomplished a great deal: He was a graduate of Amherst College who went on to intern at the Cato Institute and J Street, among other prominent organizations; a passionate vegan who wrote philosophical defenses of animal rights and converted those around him to giving up meat; a political writer who had essays published in *The Nation* and elsewhere; and a law student and teaching assistant at Harvard Law

School who donated from his teaching salary to charities in his students' names," NPR notes of the deceased young man.

Nor is any of this to downplay the tragedy that befell the Raskin family.

"He began to be tortured later in his 20s by a blindingly painful and merciless 'disease called depression,' ... a kind of relentless torture in the brain for him, and despite very fine doctors and a loving family and friendship network of hundreds who adored him beyond words and whom he adored too, the pain became overwhelming and unyielding and unbearable at last for our dear boy, this young man of surpassing promise to our broken world," Raskin and his wife said in a statement released after their son's death.