

New York Church Hit for Fourth Time as Masked Man Destroys Virgin Mary Statue

There are moments when the headlines stop feeling like isolated incidents and begin to paint a larger picture.

For one New York congregation, that moment came in the darkness of an early August morning.

A masked man climbed over the fence surrounding St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church in Queens, pulled a hammer from his pocket and struck a statue of the Virgin Mary until it crashed from its pedestal. According to Fox News, surveillance video captured the entire attack, and the New York Police Department is now investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

It is a disturbing image—not simply because a statue was destroyed, but because another house of worship has become the target of hostility.

Sadly, church leaders say this was not an isolated act.



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According to the Diocese of Brooklyn, as reported by Fox News, St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church has now endured four separate acts of vandalism since 2024. Previous attacks have included graffiti defacing a statue of St. Francis of Assisi, destruction to a St. Jude statue and the damages done to a 60-year-old stained-glass window.

One incident may be dismissed by some as random vandalism. Four incidents against the same church tell a more sobering

story.

While investigators continue searching for the suspect, the attack raises a question many believers have been asking with increasing urgency: Are we witnessing a growing boldness in attacks against Christian faith and places of worship?

Scripture reminds us that opposition to the things of God should not surprise believers. Jesus told His disciples, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18). Those words were never meant to inspire fear, but faithfulness. They remind the church that darkness may rage against what is holy, but it can never extinguish the light of Christ.

In moments like this, the church's greatest response is not panic—it is prayer.

Pray for the congregation of St. Rita's Roman Catholic Church as they recover from yet another attack. Pray for law enforcement as they seek justice. And pray that the individual responsible would encounter the conviction and saving grace of Jesus Christ.

The enemy may seek to intimidate, desecrate and divide, but history has repeatedly shown that when the church responds in faith instead of fear, the gospel continues to shine even brighter.

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