Hostility Against Churches
Is on the Rise in the United States
Analyzing Incidents from 2018-2022

by Arielle Del Turco, M.A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Points</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 420 acts of hostility against churches occurred between January 2018 and September 2022 across 45 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Due to the perceived increase in acts of hostility against churches in the United States, Family Research Council set out to analyze publicly available data from the past five years to better understand the problem and determine whether there has been a statistically significant increase over time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 57 pro-abortion acts of hostility against churches occurred between January 2022 and September 2022.</td>
<td>Between January 2018 and September 2022, at least 420 acts of hostility against U.S. churches occurred. The types of acts identified include vandalism, arson, gun-related incidents, bomb threats, and more. There also appeared to be an increase in frequency over the course of the reporting period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal acts of vandalism and destruction of church property are symptomatic of a collapse in societal reverence and respect for houses of worship and religion.</td>
<td>This increase in religious hostility should not be taken lightly. Such acts are destructive and have the potential to intimidate a religious community. Therefore, they deserve to be condemned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent or destructive incidences that interfere with an individual’s lawful free exercise of religion at their house of worship present a significant nationwide challenge and must be condemned.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

In June 2021, after surveillance cameras caught footage of two men approaching St. Veronica’s Catholic Church in Philadelphia, setting fires at the entrance, and then walking away, Father Joseph LoJacono told local reporters, “I think it’s a sign of a lessening of the faith and a certain anger and hatred to the Catholic faith.”

Father LoJacono is not the only person thinking that such incidents indicate a growing animosity toward Catholicism, and Christianity in general. There is ample reason to be concerned about rising hostility to Christianity by a Western culture that increasingly rejects Judeo-Christian values.

In a report published in July 2022, Family Research Council documented 99 incidents of government violations of religious freedom against individual Christians or Christian institutions across 14 Western countries since 2020. But religious hostility can be felt from other sources besides the government. Tracking physical incidents against churches is an important data point for larger discussions about increasing intolerance toward Christianity in American society. So, Family Research Council set out to analyze publicly available data to determine whether there has been a statistically significant increase in acts of vandalism and destruction of church property over the past five years. Our findings, detailed in this report, indicate that there has been a noticeable increase.

Criminal acts of vandalism and destruction of church property are likely symptomatic of a collapse in societal reverence and respect for houses of worship and religion—in this case, churches and Christianity. Americans appear increasingly comfortable lashing out against church buildings, pointing to a larger societal problem of marginalizing core Christian beliefs, including those that touch on hot-button political issues related to human dignity and sexuality.
The Federal Bureau of Investigation keeps records of hate crimes in the United States, including those motivated by an anti-religious bias. In 2021, the most recent year with available data, the FBI reported 240 anti-Christian “hate crimes” (the FBI uses the following categories for Christianity: Catholics, Protestants, Eastern Orthodox, and “other Christians”). This was up from 213 anti-Christian incidents in 2020. There seems to be a general upward trend over the past few years: the FBI reported 217 anti-Christian incidents in 2019 and 172 in 2018.\(^3\)

In a Western country like the United States, there can be a tendency to brush aside the significance of vandalism or other acts of hostility against churches. This should not be the case. For staff members and congregants, such acts of hostility against their churches can be intimidating. For example, when a statue of Mary outside of a Catholic church is beheaded, it is natural for congregants to feel disturbed and upset, and that may be the vandal’s aim. Acts of hostility against churches send the message that churches are not wanted in the community or respected in general. This may cause congregants or church leaders to feel unsafe. In some instances, the goal of the hostility is to interrupt the normal work of the church.

Make no mistake, acts of hostility against churches are a matter of religious freedom. Religious freedom is not maintained by good laws and policies alone; it also relies on cultural support. When church attendees feel targeted by members of their communities or church buildings bear the brunt of outrage over political events, a more grievous assault is occurring on the ability to choose and live out one’s faith safely, both at church and in the public square. Violent or destructive incidents that interfere with an individual’s lawful free exercise of religion at their house of worship present a significant nationwide challenge.

So, what should our response be to acts of hostility against churches? Everywhere they occur, such acts must be met with a strong public response condemning them and showing support for the church that
was targeted. A lack of respect for houses of worship must not be shrugged off; it directly damages churches and religious communities and contributes to a larger culture that fails to value freedom of religion. Our response to acts of hostility against churches must foster a renewed collective reverence for religion and religious freedom in American society, even—and perhaps especially—for those whose faith we do not share.

**Overview of Findings**

Family Research Council identified a total of 420 documented acts of hostility that targeted 397 individual churches. These incidents occurred between January 2018 and September 2022 across 45 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. To conduct this research, we analyzed open-source documents, reports, and media outlets to assess the number of acts of hostility against churches over a five-year span.

We looked at incidents of vandalism (including the destruction of property, the defacement of property, ransacking, and theft), arson, and arson attempts. Shootings that took place in a church building and bomb threats (including false ones) made against churches were also included. Most of the instances covered in this report are vandalisms; the report identified 342 occurrences of vandalism, 58 arson attacks or attempts, 12 gun-related incidents, 11 bomb threats, and 19 other incidences (assault, threats, interruption of worship services, etc.). Twenty incidents (4.76 percent) fell into more than one category, the most common combination being vandalism and arson.

Acts of hostility against churches occurred throughout the country, in 45 states and the District of Columbia. States with higher populations tended to report a greater number of incidents. California had the most incidents, with 51. Texas had 33 incidents, New York 31, and Florida 23. The only U.S. states without any known incidents during the five-year reporting period were Delaware, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Vermont.
The number of acts of hostility against churches appears to have increased over the five-year reporting period, with a slight but noticeable dip in 2020 (this was likely due to government restrictions and a general decrease in movement during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic). In 2018, there were 50 incidences of hostility against churches; in 2019, there were 83, in 2020 there were 54; in 2021 there were 96; and between January and September 2022, there were 137.

When the U.S. Supreme Court’s draft decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization was leaked on May 2, 2022, churches saw a spike in graffiti incidents with pro-abortion messages and protests that interrupted church services. This trend has continued since the Dobbs decision was officially handed down and Roe v. Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022. At least 57 incidents from January 2022 to September 2022 were directly tied to pro-abortion protests or contained pro-abortion messages. By contrast, only five incidents between 2019 and 2021 were abortion-related.
Church buildings also bore the marks of other political protests. At least 11 instances of vandalism, especially in the Northwest, had to do with the public controversy in Canada over the treatment of indigenous children in former Catholic-run schools. At least 10 instances included anti-police messages and messages related to the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement. Other instances were simply blatantly anti-Christian.

Yet, the motive for other incidents remains unclear. Minors were responsible for several acts of vandalism. Some instances of vandalism did not contain clear messages. Others included satanic or anarchist symbols for unknown reasons.

It is important to note that this report is not comprehensive. Many acts of hostility against churches are likely not reported to authorities and/or are not featured in the news or other online sources from which we collected data. Thus, the number of acts of hostility is undoubtedly much higher than the number reflected in this report. This report is intended to compile the data that is publicly reported and identify any trends.
When looking at recorded acts of hostility per month from 2018 to September 2022, it is notable that a spike in church attacks seemed to follow rises in political tension. This happened during the protests and concurrent riots related to George Floyd’s death in May 2020 and following the leak of the Dobbs decision in May 2022. Overall, acts of hostility trended upward during the five-year reporting period. The first nine months of 2022 saw more than double the number of reported acts of hostility against churches that occurred in the entirety of 2018.

The rise in acts of hostility against churches is cause for concern and reflects a larger societal trend of intolerance toward Christianity. Family Research Council hopes this report draws attention to the problem of acts of hostility against churches in America and offers insights into the trends surrounding this issue. The following are the incidents identified in FRC’s research, spanning January 2018 through September 2022.
2022

Flowertown Baptist Church, Summerville, South Carolina: January 4, 2022
Someone broke into the church, destroyed windows, set items on fire, turned a stove on in the kitchen, and stole $3,000 in property.⁴

Hopeland Church, Vandalia, Ohio: January 5, 2022
Approximately $10,000 worth of equipment belonging to the church was damaged, including a computer, televisions, and a copier. The previous month, a church nativity scene and a van in the parking lot were set on fire.⁵

St. Phillips Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina: January 9, 2022
The church was the recipient of a bomb threat.⁶

Burns United Methodist Church, Des Moines, Iowa: January 9, 2022
The church was the recipient of a bomb threat.⁷

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Fresno, California: January 14, 2022
A 100-year-old tabernacle was vandalized, causing $35,000 in damages.⁸

St. Timothy Catholic Church, San Antonio, Texas: January 16, 2022
Police arrested a man armed with a gun who tried to interrupt mass, sending parishioners fleeing. Another man was waiting for him in a van outside the church.⁹

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, District of Columbia: January 20, 2022
Pro-abortion slogans were projected onto the exterior of the building.¹⁰

Church of the Nativity, Burke, Virginia: January 26, 2022
A statue of Our Lady of Fatima was vandalized.¹¹
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Greenwood, Mississippi: January 27, 2022
The church was ransacked, and paintings, statues, and the altar were severely damaged.12

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, San Francisco, California: February 2022
Pro-abortion protestors disrupted mass dressed as characters from Hulu’s “The Handmaid’s Tale” based on the novel by Margaret Atwood.13

Flatrock Baptist Church, Floyd County, Georgia: February 1, 2022
Racial slurs and threats were written on the church’s exterior walls.14

Assumption Parish, St. Louis, Missouri: February 8, 2022
A man was charged with making false bomb threats against the church.15

Springfield Pentecostal Holiness, Laurel Hill, North Carolina: February 11, 2022
Someone broke into the church and stole property before setting the building on fire. The extent of the damage resulted in the building being deemed a total loss.16

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Catholic Church’s Shrine of the Little Flower, Albuquerque, New Mexico: February 14, 2022
Someone threw objects at the church’s stained glass windows, causing $20,000 in damages.17

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Milledgeville, Georgia: February 17, 2022
Someone damaged two angel statues outside the church.18

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, San Antonio, Texas: February 23, 2022
A statue of the Holy Family was stolen from outside the church in the middle of the night.19

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, Baltimore, Maryland: February 28, 2022
Almost 50 headstones at a Ukrainian Catholic cemetery were vandalized.20
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: March 2022
A statue of St. John Neumann, who was the fourth bishop of Philadelphia and was instrumental in the creation of the Catholic school system, was destroyed.  

Holy Family Catholic Church, Jacksonville, Florida: March 1, 2022
Statues depicting Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were vandalized with satanic imagery.  

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Royal Oak, Michigan: March 8, 2022
A statue of Mary was vandalized, as well as the interior and exterior of the building.  

Community Church of Christ in Jamaica, New York, New York: March 8, 2022
Church windows were broken with a large stick.  

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Yazoo City, Mississippi: March 10, 2022
Grass on the church property and multiple items were set on fire with gasoline.  

Main Street Baptist Church, Bartow, Florida: March 13, 2022
The church building was destroyed in an arson attack.  

Journey Church of Sonora, Sonora, California: March 19, 2022
The church building was destroyed in an arson attack.  

St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, North Beach, Maryland: April 1, 2022
A crucifix, a stained-glass window, a stone angel, multiple candles and candleholders, an organ, and a piano were damaged when someone entered the church and ransacked it.  

Cristo Rey Catholic Church, Austin, Texas: April 8, 2022
Thirty windows and the front door were damaged by someone throwing rocks at the church.
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States  

December 2022 | No. IS22L02

Two churches in Waco, Texas: April 11 and 13, 2022
Two churches in Waco, Texas, were threatened over the phone, prompting police investigations.  

Peace United Church of Christ, Rochester, Minnesota: April 18, 2022
An arson attack caused more than $2.5 million in damages.  

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Hybla Valley, Virginia: April 27, 2022
Glass from the church door was shattered.  

St. John Baptist Church, Hybla Valley, Virginia: April 27, 2022
A church door was broken into, and there was evidence that someone had smoked inside the building.  

Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Boulder, Colorado: May 3, 2022
The church was vandalized with pro-abortion messages on the building, and some of its windows were broken.  

St. Andrew Catholic Church, Eagle River, Alaska: May 4, 2022
The church was vandalized with inappropriate spray-painted symbols and nails scattered across the parking lot. The act is thought to have been a response to the church hosting a conservative Catholic speaker on the topic of gender identity.  

St. Joseph’s Church and Academy, Armada, Michigan: May 5, 2022
The church was vandalized with satanic symbols and messages calling for the death of Republicans.  

St. John XXIII Catholic Church, Fort Collins, Colorado: May 7, 2022
Someone spray painted the church’s front doors and broke glass windows.
The Basilica of St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral, New York, New York: May 7, 2022
After a draft of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization was leaked, bomb threats were issued against the church and a Franciscan friar was heckled. Security measures were tightened as a result.38

St. Bartholomew the Apostle Catholic Church, Katy, Texas: May 8, 2022
The church’s tabernacle was stolen.39

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Houston, Texas: May 8, 2022
The message “Pro-Choice is Pro-Life” was painted on the church’s main entrance and a side door.40

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, California: May 8, 2022
Protestors in red, hooded gowns representing characters from Hulu’s “The Handmaid’s Tale” interrupted mass.41

Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta, Georgia: May 8, 2022
On Mother's Day, abortion supporters protested outside the church and staged a “die-in” with fake blood while mass was taking place inside.42

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Houston, Texas: May 9, 2022
Someone tried to desecrate the Eucharist, likely in relation to pro-abortion protests.43

St. Louis Catholic Church, Louisville, Colorado: May 9, 2022
The church was spray painted with the message “My body, my choice.”44

Elliston Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee: May 13, 2022
The church building was destroyed in an arson attack.45
Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, Laguna Woods, California: May 15, 2022
A shooter opened fire on a lunch reception until church members stopped him. One person died, and five were wounded.46

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, New York, New York: May 17, 2022
Statues were beheaded and smashed.47

St. David the King Church, West Windsor, New Jersey: May 17 and 26, 2022
A statue in the church parking lot was vandalized following another instance of vandalism outside the church in the preceding week.48

Pitts Chapel United Methodist Church, Springfield, Missouri: May 18, 2022
A swastika was spray-painted on the side of a historically black church.49

St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: May 20, 2022
Vandals ripped rain gutter pipes off the church building and stole copper panels from the roof.50

St. Michael's Catholic Church, Olympia, Washington: May 22, 2022
The anarchist group “Jane’s Revenge” spray-painted pro-abortion messages onto the church’s exterior. The vandalism was motivated by the church’s connection to pregnancy resource centers.51

Church of Latter-Day Saints, Olympia, Washington: May 22, 2022
The anarchist group “Jane’s Revenge” spray-painted pro-abortion messages onto the church’s exterior. The vandalism was motivated by the church’s connection to pregnancy resource centers.52

Harbor Church, Olympia, Washington: May 22, 2022
The anarchist group “Jane’s Revenge” spray-painted pro-abortion messages onto the church’s exterior. The vandalism was motivated by the church’s connection to pregnancy resource centers.53
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

Calvary Church, Olympia, Washington: May 22, 2022
The anarchist group “Jane’s Revenge” spray-painted pro-abortion messages onto the church’s exterior. The vandalism was motivated by the church’s connection to pregnancy resource centers.54

Mt. Avery Missionary Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi: May 23, 2022
The church was spray-painted with pro-abortion messages.55

St. Augustine Catholic Church, New York, New York: May 28, 2022
The tabernacle was stolen, and statues of angels on the altar were beheaded and destroyed.56

St. Mary Catholic Church, Vinton, Iowa: June 2022
A pro-life sign outside of the church that read “Choose Life” was defaced; the message “Pro Choice, My Body My Choice” was spray-payed over the sign.57

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Oakdale, California: June 2022
The church was the target of multiple vandalisms, including broken windows and repeated damage to a sprinkler system.58

Sierra Foothills Community Church, Oakdale, California: June 2022
The church experienced multiple incidences of someone throwing rocks through the windows. Police believed the suspect was targeting churches.59

Cornerstone Church, Ames, Iowa: June 2, 2022
A shooting killed three people during the church’s college ministry program.60

Lakewood Church, Houston, Texas: June 5, 2022
Protestors interrupted a service, stripped down to their underwear, and chanted, “My body, my choice.”61
Redemption to the Nations Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee: June 10, 2022
The historic Phillips Chapel building owned by the church was set on fire and nearly burned down.62

St. Veronica Church, Eastpointe, Michigan: June 12, 2022
A pro-abortion protester interrupted mass and yelled, “Overturn Roe? Hell, no!” along with other pro-abortion messages.63

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Vestavia Hills, Alabama: June 17, 2022
A gunman opened fire at the church and killed three people.64

St. Margaret’s Catholic Church, Buffalo, New York: June 23, 2022
Statues outside the church were beheaded, and the church’s gardens were damaged.65

Guardian Angel Roman Catholic Church, New York, New York: June 24, 2022
The church was vandalized with pro-abortion messages, including “Separation [sic] Btwn Church + State.”66

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, New Orleans, Louisiana: June 25, 2022
A statue outside the church that honored the unborn victims of abortion was defaced.67

St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Reston, Virginia: June 25, 2022
The church was vandalized with crude messages, and police investigated the possibility of arson due to a small fire on the property.68

All Saints Catholic Church, Portland, Oregon: June 25, 2022
The church was vandalized with the message, “If abortions aren’t safe, neither are you.”69

St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Harlingen, Texas: June 25, 2022
Two angel statues were stolen, and a statue of the Virgin Mary was knocked over.70
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: June 25 and July 12, 2022
On June 25, the phrase “Abort the church” was spray painted on a corner of the church building. On July 12, the church doors were vandalized with the pro-abortion message “My body my choice” and obscenities.71

St. Anthony’s Catholic Parish, Renton, Washington: June 25, 2022
Several stained-glass windows were destroyed, and hateful messages were spray-painted in the church.72

St. Phillips AME Church, Tallahassee, Florida: June 25, 2022
The church sign was vandalized with a pro-abortion message.73

St. Teresa’s of Avila Catholic Church, Hutchinson, Kansas: June 25, 2022
A pro-life sign was vandalized ahead of a vote on a pro-life amendment in Kansas.74

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois: June 26, 2022
Protestors interrupted mass, yelling and carrying signs with sayings such as “The Catholic Church had blood on its hands.”75

St. Colman Catholic Church, Shady Spring, West Virginia: June 26, 2022
The historic church building was destroyed in an arson attack.76

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and St. Joseph School, Chicago, Illinois: June 26, 2022
Pro-abortion activists disrupted mass, shouted slogans, distributed flyers, and displayed a sign that read, “The Catholic Church has Blood on its Hands.”77

Ascension Roman Catholic Church, New York, New York: June 27, 2022
The church was vandalized with aggressive pro-abortion messages.78
Hinson Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon: June 27, 2022
During a march protesting the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe, a crowd of protestors vandalized the church, leaving behind obscenities and pro-abortion slogans, including “Abort the Court,” “My trans,” and “Abortion is a human right.”

St. Brendan the Voyager Orthodox Church, Bullhead City, Arizona: June 27, 2022
Someone threw a rock through a church window.

St. Therese Little Flower Catholic Church, South Bend, Indiana: June 27, 2022
A memorial cross for unborn babies killed via abortion was vandalized.

St. George Catholic Church, Framingham, Massachusetts: June 27, 2022
Red paint was splattered on a statue and the church entrance.

St. Louise Catholic Church, Bellevue, Washington: June 28, 2022
The church was spray-painted with hateful anti-Catholic messages, and some of its windows were broken.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Lorain, Ohio: June 30, 2022
An arsonist set fire to the school belonging to a Catholic church, causing $1 million in fire damage.

St. Bernard Catholic Church, Weston, West Virginia: July 2022
Someone climbed through a stained glass window and vandalized the church, causing extensive damage.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bakersfield, California: July 2022
Stained glass windows were smashed, causing an estimated $20,000 in damages.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Halstead, Kansas: July 2022
A sign supporting a pro-life ballot initiative was pushed out of its wooden frame.
St. Peter's Catholic Church, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin: July 1, 2022
The church was spray-painted with pro-abortion messages.  

Holy Ghost Parish, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin: July 1, 2022
The church was spray-painted with pro-abortion messages.  

Notre Dame Catholic Church, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin: July 1, 2022
The church was spray-painted with pro-abortion messages.  

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin: July 1, 2022
The church was spray-painted with pro-abortion messages.  

Holy Redeemer Church, Portland, Oregon: July 1, 2022
Police drove away anarchist rioters who had planned a pro-abortion rally to “Abolish SCOTUS” following the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision.  

The Basilica of St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral, New York, New York: July 2, 2022
Angry pro-abortion protestors disrupted mass.  

St. Bernard Catholic Church, Madison, Wisconsin: July 2, 2022
The church was vandalized with pro-abortion and anti-police messages.  

Ramsey Freewill Baptist Church, Norton, Virginia: July 2, 2022
Arson caused smoke damage to the church building and fire damage to several church pews and a wall.  

Holy Family Catholic Church, Hillsborough, North Carolina: July 3, 2022
The church was defaced with hateful, satanic, and pro-abortion messages.
Bible Missionary Church, Sumner, Washington: July 6, 2022
The church building was vandalized with the anarchist symbol and an upside-down cross.97

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Ontario, Oregon: July 7, 2022
A pro-life sign displayed outside the church that read “A baby is a person no matter how small” was vandalized.98

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Upland, California: July 7, 2022
Someone entered the church, set a small fire, and began threatening to kill everyone in the church, prompting his arrest.99

ACTS Center, Redlands, California: July 8, 2022
The church was vandalized three times in one week with curse words and anti-Christian messages.100

St. Patrick Church, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania: July 9, 2022
Two people damaged statues outside of the church.101

St. John Neumann Parish, Lower Township, New Jersey: July 9, 2022
A pro-life sign remembering the unborn victims of abortion was vandalized with the message, “Defenestrate babies.”102

Wildwood Baptist Church, Bethesda, Maryland: July 9, 2022
A fire was started outside the church, and headstones in the adjacent cemetery were damaged.103

North Bethesda United Methodist Church, Bethesda, Maryland: July 9, 2022
The church was set on fire in an arson attack.104

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, Bethesda, Maryland: July 10, 2022
Multiple fires were set as part of an arson attack.105
Church of the Ascension, Overland Park, Kansas: July 10, 2022
A vandal painted explicit words and the phrase “My body, my choice” on the church and defaced a statue of Mary.¹⁰⁶

Kingdom Celebration Center, Gambrills, Maryland: July 11, 2022
An African American church was vandalized with racist slurs inscribed onto the church door.¹⁰⁷

Cedarville Baptist Church, Cedarville, Illinois: July 14, 2022
The church was vandalized with explicit language and anarchist symbols.¹⁰⁸

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Long Beach, Mississippi: July 15, 2022
Two statues in the church garden were damaged.¹⁰⁹

Allen Chapel AME Church, Delano, California: July 17, 2022
A vandal spray-painted the N-word on a church sign, on windows, in front of the church, on a brick facade, on the walkway, and on trash cans.¹¹⁰

Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, New York, New York: July 17, 2022
Someone scaled the exterior of the church and splattered black paint on the building.¹¹¹

St. Boniface Catholic Church, Springfield, Georgia: July 20, 2022
A billboard in front of the church that read “God doesn’t make mistakes. Choose life!” was defaced by spray paint and a vile message overnight.¹¹²

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Houma, Louisiana: July 22, 2022
Someone damaged three statues outside the church.¹¹³

Holy Family Catholic Church, Kingsburg, California: July 23, 2022
Statues of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were beheaded by a vandal.¹¹⁴
Evangelical Lutheran Emmanuel Church, Dubois, Indiana: July 25, 2022
The church was broken into, the property was vandalized, and several items were stolen.115

Victory Baptist Church, Lawrence, Kansas: July 31, 2022
Vandals defaced the church with pro-abortion graffiti, including messages such as “Protect Choice” and “Vote no,” referring to Kansas’ pro-life amendment on the ballot at the time.116

Calvary Temple Assembly of God, Lawrence, Kansas: July 31, 2022
The church was vandalized with the pro-abortion slogan “My body, my choice” and “Vote no,” referring to Kansas’ pro-life amendment on the ballot at the time.117

San Clemente Mission Parish, East Bakersfield, California: August 2, 2022
The church experienced multiple vandalisms over the span of a few months. In one particularly bad incident, surveillance cameras showed someone breaking the head off a statue outside the church and placing dead birds on statues.118

The Basilica of St Patrick’s Old Cathedral, New York, New York: August 6, 2022
Pro-abortion rioters harassed parishioners during a regularly scheduled pro-life gathering, screaming, “Tell those Nazis to come out.” Police made multiple arrests of pro-abortion protestors.119

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Denver, Colorado: August 6 and 8, 2022
Two drive-by shootings were carried out by a gunman after hours, targeting the doors and stained-glass windows of the church. No one was hurt.120

The Promised Land Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina: August 16, 2022
Signs belonging to the church and Christian school were vandalized. The pastor thinks the church was targeted due to its strong anti-abortion stance.121

St. Mary’s Church, Evansville, Indiana: August 17, 2022
A glass window was destroyed, and a door was busted out of its frame overnight.122
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Glens Falls, New York: August 19, 2022
A pro-life memorial for unborn babies was vandalized outside the church. Graffiti with the word “Allah” was also left on an outdoor event tent at the church in the same incident.123

Stonebridge United Methodist Church, McKinney, Texas: August 28, 2022
The building was vandalized with a racist slur, curse words, multiple swastikas, and the ominous message “Not my best work yet…”124

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Houston, Texas: August 29, 2022
The church was burglarized, and cash was stolen from the offering box. Candlesticks and windows were also smashed in the incident.125

St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Gibbsboro, New Jersey: August 30, 2022
An Our Lady of Fatima statue, one of only four statues like it, was stolen from church grounds.126

Live Oak Baptist Church, Gatesville, Texas: September 3, 2022
Surveillance cameras caught someone entering the main sanctuary of the church and then leaving, followed by smoke because of a fire that had been set.127

Victory Baptist Church, Los Angeles, California: September 11, 2022
A historic church burned to the ground after a suspected arson attack.128

Our Lady of the Angels Church, Sauk Centre, Minnesota: September 16, 2022
Intoxicated vandals caused extensive damage to the interior of the church, including broken statues.129

St. Hyacinth Church, Detroit, Michigan: September 19, 2022
A church was robbed of donated items that were going to be raffled off during a fundraising event. Windows were also smashed in the incident.130
St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: September 22, 2022
Thieves climbed up to the steeple and removed copper panels. This was the third time vandals had targeted the church using the same method.131

The Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bayside, California: September 24-26, 2022
A church was defaced with politically themed graffiti, including messages such as “Kill MAGA/Pigs,” “BLM,” “Antifa,” “Wok-Up,” and “666.”132

Eureka Seventh Day Adventist Church, Eureka, California: September 24-26, 2022
A church was defaced with hateful messages.133

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Arcata, California: September 24-26, 2022
A church was defaced with graffiti.134

First Covenant Church, Eureka, California: September 24-26, 2022
A church was defaced with graffiti.135

St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York, New York: September 26, 2022
Pro-abortion protestors shouted “f--- the church” and other obscenities outside the church.136

2021

St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York, New York: January 1, 2021
The church was vandalized with anti-police graffiti.137

Peace Lutheran Church, Neenah, Wisconsin: January 7, 2021
The church was vandalized with obscenity directed at President Donald Trump.138
Rosary Cathedral, Toledo, Ohio: January 18, 2021
The front doors were set on fire, and the church was vandalized with messages, including “Jesus is Black.”139

Oakley Chapel AME Church, Tebbetts, Missouri: January 23, 2021
The historic church building was ransacked by several individuals and sustained damage to windows, doors, and pews.140

St. Pius X Parish, El Paso, Texas: February 9, 2021
Three angel statues were damaged.141

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Denver, Colorado: February 16, 2021
The church’s altar was ransacked, and items around the altar were destroyed.142

St. Mary of the Knobs Catholic Church, Floyds Knobs, Indiana: February 23, 2021
A statue of Mary was spray-painted with the misspelled word “Harlat,” and the doors of a chapel were spray-painted with the word “Hell.”143

Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Youngstown, Ohio: February 26, 2021
Over $20,000 worth of property was destroyed by a vandal overnight.144

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Fort Worth, Texas: February 28, 2021
Statues of Mary and St. Thomas were pushed off their pedestals and damaged; later, the statue of St. Thomas the Apostle was stolen and found beheaded with broken arms.145

St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, Dorchester, Massachusetts: March 12, 2021
An unknown putty-like substance was inserted into the locks of the church to prevent entry.146
St. Monica–St. Augustine Church, Boston, Massachusetts: March 12, 2021
A statue of Mary was knocked down, and an unknown substance was inserted into the locks on the church doors.147

St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Washington, District of Columbia: March 13, 2021
The church was vandalized with what appeared to be satanic graffiti.148

First Baptist Church of Brevard, Brevard, North Carolina: March 14, 2021
Multiple suspected “incendiary devices” were found near the church.149

St. Charles Catholic Church, Spokane, Washington: March 18, 2021
Part of St. Charles Parish School was destroyed in an arson attack.150

Pleasant View Church, Elkland, Missouri: April 3, 2021
The historic church was vandalized on Easter weekend.151

Emmanuel Christian Center, Spring Lake Park, Minnesota: April 11, 2021
Two false calls were made to 911 indicating there was a bomb threat at the church, prompting an evacuation of the building.152

St. Mary’s Cathedral, Fargo, North Dakota: April 16, 2021
The face of a statue of Jesus was vandalized.153

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Woodland, California: April 17, 2021
Statues of Mary, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John were vandalized with spray paint.154

Liberty Live Church, Hampton Roads, Virginia: April 18, 2021
Hoax bomb threats were called into multiple locations.155
St. Elisabeth Catholic Church, Van Nuys, California: April 21, 2021
A man smashed the face of a Virgin of Guadalupe mural with a sledgehammer.\textsuperscript{156}

St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Rancho Cordova, California: April 25, 2021
A statue of Mary was slashed with black paint.\textsuperscript{157}

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Waltham, Massachusetts: May 2, 2021
A statue of Jesus was beheaded.\textsuperscript{158}

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Riverside, California: May 6, 2021
Stained glass windows were broken, and a statue of San Juan Diego was vandalized.\textsuperscript{159}

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Everett, Massachusetts: May 8, 2021
Someone threw rocks through a stained glass window.\textsuperscript{160}

St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church, Narragansett, Rhode Island: May 8, 2021
A statue of Jesus outside the church was damaged by someone using a blunt instrument.\textsuperscript{161}

St. Athanasius Catholic Church, New York, New York: May 14, 2021
Someone knocked over and damaged a crucifix outside the church.\textsuperscript{162}

Statues of Our Lady of Carmel and the Sacred Heart of Jesus were destroyed by a vandal.\textsuperscript{163}

Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, New York: May 17, 2021
Someone beheaded a statue of baby Jesus.\textsuperscript{164}
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Leavenworth, Washington: May 27, 2021
Audio equipment was stolen, and multiple fire extinguishers were deployed by vandals inside the church.165

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Port Charlotte, Florida: May 31, 2021
Someone vandalized stained glass windows and a statue of the Ten Commandments.166

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Portland, Oregon: June 2021
Vandals lit fires outside the church and defaced the building with graffiti.167

Parsons Primitive Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania: June 7, 2021
Someone ripped up a Bible, desecrated an American flag, discharged several fire extinguishers, and left feces throughout the building.168

Immaculate Conception Church, New York, New York: June 8, 2021
Graffiti was found on the church’s exterior.169

St. Veronica’s Catholic Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: June 19, 2021
Two individuals set fire to the church doors.170

St. Andrew Catholic Church, Portland, Oregon: June 26, 2021
Someone broke a stained glass window, causing over $2,000 in damages.171

Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Denver, Colorado: June 28, 2021
A church was vandalized with “1323” in red paint, referring to a controversy over former Catholic-run schools for indigenous children in Canada.172

Holy Rosary Church, Jersey City, New Jersey: July 1, 2021
A statue of Mary with baby Jesus was vandalized and then stolen.173
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Portland, Oregon: July 1, 2021
A group of people put red handprints across the front of the church, including the main doors and front steps, possibly in response to a controversy over former Catholic-run schools for indigenous children in Canada.174

St. James Cathedral, Seattle, Washington: July 2, 2021
The church doors were vandalized with red paint and the message “We were children.” The incident corresponded with a wave of other incidents following the public controversy in Canada over the treatment of indigenous children in former Catholic-run schools.175

St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, Merced, California: July 4, 2021
Handprints with red paint were left across the entrance of the church, likely in connection to a controversy over former Catholic-run schools for indigenous children in Canada.176

New Vision Sanctuary Church of God in Christ, Camden, South Carolina: July 4, 2021
A church wall was covered with vulgar and disturbing graffiti.177

St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville, North Carolina: July 4, 2021
A statue of Jesus was covered in red paint.178

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Los Angeles, California: July 7, 2021
Someone climbed the roof of the church and set fire to a wooden cross.179

Holy Redeemer Church, Portland, Oregon: July 12, 2021
The church doors were spray painted with an anarchist symbol and an obscene critique of colonialism in connection with the controversy over former Catholic-run schools for indigenous children in Canada.180

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, Charleston, West Virginia: July 13, 2021
Someone threw a rock through a church window, causing $12,000 in damages.181
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, New York, New York: July 17, 2021
Someone was caught on camera smashing statues of Mary and St. Thérèse of Lisieux, breaking them into pieces and dragging them 180 feet.182

Christ the King Church, South Bend, Indiana: July 25, 2021
A man broke into and vandalized a church.183

St. Benedict Catholic Church, Seattle, Washington: August 6, 2021
The church entryway was vandalized with handprints in black paint and the words “LAND BACK” written on the doors, in reference to the controversy over former Catholic-run schools for indigenous children in Canada.184

First Grace United Methodist Church, New Orleans, Louisiana: August 6, 2021
Someone spray-painted over a sign in front of the church that read, “Love thy neighbor, get vaccinated.”185

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mary Catholic Church, New York, New York: August 8, 2021
Someone launched “a fiery object” at a statue of Mary.186

The Church of St. Joseph, Spring Valley, New York: August 12, 2021
Someone riding past the church on a bicycle threw a rock at a statue outside the church, damaging it.187

Global Vision Bible Church, Mount Juliet, Tennessee: August 15, 2021
The inside and outside of the church building were vandalized, and hateful messages were spray-painted on church property, including “Your lies cost lives” and “FU.” This was likely in response to the pastor’s positions on COVID-19.188

Mount Washington Missionary Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri: August 16, 2021
A person was shot while serving in the church’s homeless ministry. The shooter reportedly did not like how the volunteer looked at him.189
St. Michael's Catholic Church, New York, New York: August 17, 2021
Someone jumped over a church fence and attacked a newly established statue of St. Bernadette, knocking it over and damaging it.190

St. Martha Catholic Church, Miami Shores, Florida: August 29 and September 29, 2021
Two statues were vandalized. One statue of Jesus had its hand knocked off; another statue in front of the parish office was left headless and handless.191

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Jay, Maine: September 2, 2021
The church’s front entrance was vandalized with white spray paint at the same time that local businesses and other buildings were.192

St. Louis Catholic Church, Louisville, Colorado: September 5, 2021
The church was vandalized with pro-abortion messages, such as “My body, my choice.”193

Reeves Temple AME Zion Church, Davidson, North Carolina: September 5, 9, and 10, 2021
The church was broken into and vandalized by teenagers on three separate occasions. The church’s historic meeting hall was damaged.194

Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Boulder, Colorado: September 29, 2021
Vandals spray-painted pro-abortion messages and anarchist symbols on the church building, signs, and a truck.195

First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama: September 29, 2021
An arsonist caused extensive damage by lighting multiple fires in the church building and causing smoke and soot to spread throughout.196

Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Denver, Colorado: October 10, 2021
The church was vandalized with anti-Catholic messages spray-painted on the walls. The messages included “Satan lives here,” “White supremacists,” and “Child rapists, LOL.”197
**St. Edward Catholic Church, Seattle, Washington:** October 10, 2021  
Vandals broke church windows and spray-painted the words “Stolen children” and “House of murder,” likely in connection with the controversy over former Catholic-run schools for indigenous children in Canada.\(^{198}\)

**St. Peter’s Italian Catholic Church, Los Angeles, California:** October 11, 2021  
Red paint was splattered across the building, and the words “Land back” were spray painted near the entrance, likely in connection with the controversy over former Catholic-run schools for indigenous children in Canada.\(^{199}\)

**American Martyrs Catholic Church, Manhattan Beach, California:** October 16, 2021  
The church was vandalized with crude and hateful graffiti.\(^{200}\)

**St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church, Somerville, Alabama:** October 18, 2021  
Four children were caught ransacking the church, damaging pews, tables, couches, and pianos.\(^{201}\)

**Annunciation Catholic Church, Washington, District of Columbia:** October 22, 2021  
Someone painted a swastika on a pillar in the church parking lot.\(^{202}\)

**Berachah Church, Middletown, Ohio:** October 22, 2021  
Four juveniles broke into the church, spray-painted vulgar images, and broke LED lights.\(^{203}\)

**St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Tacoma, Washington:** October 24, 2021  
The parish office was badly damaged by a fire set by a serial arsonist.\(^{204}\)

**Greater New Life Church, Roseville, Michigan:** October 24, 2021  
The church was vandalized with swastikas and the word “Die.”\(^{205}\)

**St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Fargo, North Dakota:** October 31, 2021  
A statue of St. Anthony was beheaded.\(^{206}\)
College Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas: November 2, 2021
A suspicious package was found inside the church, and the building was in disarray.207

Mission San Jose, Fremont, California: November 5, 2021
The church was vandalized with spray-painted messages such as “Land back,” “Catholicism is a colonizer religion,” and “Genocide is not a spectacle.”208

Nashville Light Mission Pentecostal Church, Nashville, Tennessee: November 7, 2021
A gunman interrupted a church service, waving a gun in the air and pointing it at congregants before the pastor managed to tackle him and call the police.209

St. Catharine’s Church, Columbus, Ohio: November 8, 2021
Police investigated a bomb threat at the church.210

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois: November 9, 2021
A 100-year-old church in Chicago’s Ukrainian Village was vandalized.211

St. Monica and Luke Church, Gary, Indiana: November 13, 2021
A gunman fired into a crowd just as a funeral was letting out, injuring two men, one of them fatally.212

St. Peter’s Catholic Church, DeLand, Florida: November 25-29, 2021
Windows were smashed and statues toppled as part of a set of incidents against three local churches.213

Tomoka Christian Church, DeLand, Florida: November 26, 2021
Windows were smashed and statues toppled as part of a set of incidents against three local churches.214

DeLand Wesleyan Church, DeLand, Florida: November 25-29, 2021
Windows were smashed and statues toppled as part of a set of incidents against three local churches.215
Lititz Church of the Brethren, Lititz, Pennsylvania: December 4, 2021
The church grounds were vandalized with satanic imagery and messages drawn in chalk, including the phrases “Hail Satan” and “Kill God.”

Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida: December 4-5, 2021
Police confronted a vandal suspected of spray-painting graffiti at several local churches, including Olive Baptist Church, where the damage was estimated to be around $66,700.

Marcus Pointe Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida: December 4-5, 2021
The church was vandalized with spray-painted messages, such as “Depart from me wicked” and “I am so holy.” This was part of a small rash of vandalisms in the Pensacola area by the same individual.

St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Pensacola, Florida: December 4-5, 2021
The church was vandalized with the word “Depart” spray-painted on the church sign. This was part of a small rash of vandalisms in the Pensacola area by the same individual.

Victory Bible Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida: December 4-5, 2021
A vandal spray-painted the words “Depart from me” on the church’s front doors. This was part of a small rash of vandalisms in the Pensacola area by the same individual.

Legacy Church, Pensacola, Florida: December 4-5, 2021
The church was struck in a small rash of vandalisms in the Pensacola area by the same individual.

Calvary Christian Center, Pensacola, Florida: December 4-5, 2021
The church was struck in a small rash of vandalisms in the Pensacola area by the same individual.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, District of Columbia: December 5, 2021
A vandal cut off the hands, nose, and part of the crown of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima.
Mary Mother of God Church, Hillsborough, New Jersey: December 12, 23, and 29, 2021
The church experienced three incidences of vandalism and theft, including having mail and Christmas decorations stolen from its property and other decorations destroyed.224

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Portland, Indiana: December 13, 2021
An arsonist set fire to the church and rectory because he believed Catholics were “at fault” for the COVID-19 pandemic.225

Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Oldsmar, Florida: December 18, 2021
A homeless man broke into the church, ransacked the building, and threw church items outside. The damage to the building cost an estimated $50,000 and prompted the church building to remain closed during Christmas.226

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: December 27, 2021
Bandits ransacked the church building, stealing doors, stained glass windows, and chairs behind the pulpit, causing an estimated $11,000 in damages.227

2020

St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Casper, Wyoming: May 6, 2020
Someone entered the church through an unlocked door and began knocking things over and kicking property throughout the building, causing an estimated $25,000 in damages.228

Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, Minnesota: May 28, 2020
Riots in Minneapolis following the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed by a police officer on May 25, 2020, are believed to be linked to a small fire set in the basilica that caused minor damage.229
St. Jude Chapel, Dallas, Texas: May 29, 2020
Vandals threw rocks through church windows as a part of riots responding to the death of George Floyd.\textsuperscript{230}

Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, Kentucky: May 29, 2020
Vandals threw rocks through church windows as a part of riots responding to the death of George Floyd.\textsuperscript{231}

St. Mary’s Basilica, Minneapolis, Minnesota: May 29, 2020
During riots responding to the death of George Floyd, a fire was lit under a church pew, causing minor damage.\textsuperscript{232}

Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon-St. Peter Cathedral, Los Angeles, California: May 30, 2020
The church was vandalized as a part of riots responding to the death of George Floyd. The phrases “Prosecute killer cops,” “ACAB” (All Cops Are Bastards), “Kill all cops,” and “Make America pay for its crimes against Black lives” were all spray-painted on the exterior of the building.\textsuperscript{233}

St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York, New York: May 30, 2020
Vandals spray-painted “BLM” and “George Floyd,” along with vulgar messages and anti-police slogans.\textsuperscript{234}

Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Denver, Colorado: May 30-31, 2020
The church exterior was damaged over multiple nights, including smashed gates and graffiti with messages such as “God is dead” and “There is no God,” and windows shattered.\textsuperscript{235}

St. Olaf Catholic Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Late May 2020
The church sustained minor property damage during riots following the death of George Floyd.\textsuperscript{236}

Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, Flagstaff, Arizona: June 16, 2020
A historic church was vandalized.\textsuperscript{237}
St. Ann Catholic Parish, Gary, Indiana: July 2, 2020
A statue of Mary was beheaded.238

St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Rockford, Illinois: July 5–6, 2020
A crucifix was vandalized.239

Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Ocala, Florida: July 11, 2020
While parishioners were getting ready for mass, someone crashed a minivan through the main doors, poured gasoline inside the church, and lit it on fire, causing substantial damage.240

St. Peter Parish, Dorchester, Massachusetts: July 11, 2020
Someone set fire to plastic flowers that were in the hands of a statue of Mary, burning the face and upper body of the statue.241

St. Stephen Catholic Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee: July 11, 2020
A statue of Mary was beheaded.242

Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, Los Angeles, California: July 11, 2020
An arson attack destroyed the roof and interior of the mission.243

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Punta Gorda, Florida: July 11, 2020
Someone damaged multiple statues and knocked many over, including a statue of Jesus.244

St. Mary’s Cathedral, Colorado Springs, Colorado: July 14, 2020
A statue of Mary was spray-painted with red paint, covering a cross on the statue and painting the statue’s toenails.245

Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Miami, Florida: July 14, 2020
A statue of Jesus in the church courtyard was found toppled over and beheaded.246
St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, New Haven, Connecticut: July 15, 2020
Satanic symbols were painted on the church doors.247

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Bloomingburg, New York: July 18-19, 2020
A memorial to unborn children killed by abortion was knocked over.248

Sacred Heart Church, Weymouth, Massachusetts: August 2, 2020
Police believe a Molotov cocktail was thrown at the church overnight in an arson attempt. The only damage was charring on the door.249

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Wounded Knee, South Dakota: August 8, 2020
The church building was destroyed in an arson attack.250

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, Denver, Colorado: August 9, 2020
A statue of St. Jude was beheaded, and dozens of candles in the courtyard were destroyed.251

Holy Family Parish, Citrus Heights, California: August 17, 2020
A copy of the Ten Commandments was spray painted with a swastika, and a statue of Mary was beheaded.252

Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Allentown, Pennsylvania: August 24, 2020
Someone appears to have attempted to behead a statue of Mary, causing half of the statue’s face to be broken off and part of the veil to be damaged.253

St. James Catholic Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin: August 24, 2020
Vandals smashed several windows at the church property and painted the word “Burn” on the church’s front door, an upside-down cross on the exterior of the church building, and the words “God is dead” on construction equipment on the parish school property. The acts occurred during riots in Kenosha over Jacob Blake, a black man who was shot by police.254
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Tioga, Louisiana: September 9, 2020
An individual caught on camera destroyed as much as he could around the exterior of the church for two hours, throwing statues and planters against the building and destroying windows and doors.\textsuperscript{255}

Shrine Church of Our Lady of Solace, New York, New York: September 11, 2020
A vandal toppled a statue of Mary and caused an estimated $4,000 in damages.\textsuperscript{256}

St. Therese of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, Midvale, Utah: September 13-14, 2020
One day apart, a statue of St. Therese was smashed, and a parish property was broken into and vandalized.\textsuperscript{257}

St. Patrick’s Cathedral, El Paso, Texas: September 15, 2020
A 90-year-old statue of Jesus was beheaded.\textsuperscript{258}

St. Peter Armenian Church, Van Nuys, California: September 17, 2020
A vandal destroyed eight very rare stained glass windows with a baseball bat.\textsuperscript{259}

Incarnation Catholic Church, Town ‘n’ Country, Florida: September 18, 2020
Someone broke into the church and set three pews on fire, attempting to burn the church down.\textsuperscript{260}

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, El Cajon, California: September 25, 2020
The church was vandalized with spray-painted swastikas. A second church in El Cajon experienced similar vandalism the same day.\textsuperscript{261}

St. Peter’s Chaldean Catholic Cathedral, El Cajon, California: September 25, 2020
The church was vandalized with spray-painted swastikas. A second church in El Cajon experienced similar vandalism the same day.\textsuperscript{262}

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, Fall River, Massachusetts: September 29, 2020
Someone threw a cinderblock through a church window.\textsuperscript{263}
St. Joseph Cupertino Catholic Church, Fall River, Massachusetts: September 29, 2020
Someone beheaded statues of baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.264

Mission San Rafael Arcángel, San Rafael, California: October 12, 2020
Activists defaced a statue of St. Junipero Serra with red spray paint before tearing it down on California’s Indigenous People’s Day.265

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Magnolia, Arkansas: October 19, 2020
A pro-life display consisting of 150 small white crosses and a banner were knocked down.266

Resurrection Roman Catholic Church, New York, New York: October 20, 2020
Someone cracked the head and broke a hand off a statue of Mary.267

St. Germaine Catholic Church, Prescott Valley, Arizona: October 20, 2020
Statues of Mary and Jesus were found toppled; gardens surrounding the statues were also damaged.268

St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Scranton, Pennsylvania: October 21, 2020
A vandal toppled a statue of Mary.269

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, Louisville, Kentucky: October 25, 2020
Someone broke into the church and vandalized the altar until he was apprehended.270

Mother Cabrini Catholic Church, Shamokin, Pennsylvania: November 8, 2020
Someone battered a statue of St. Teresa and stole Jesus’ head from a crucifix held by the statue.271

St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois: November 9, 2020
The exterior of the church was vandalized, and “God is dead” was spray-painted on a wall.272
New Testament Baptist Church, Brewster, Washington: November 15, 2020
The church experienced serious fire damage in an apparent arson attack. A nearby Catholic church experienced a fire at the same time.\textsuperscript{273}

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Brewster, Washington: November 15, 2020
The church experienced fire damage in an apparent arson attack. A nearby Baptist church experienced a fire at the same time.\textsuperscript{274}

St. Bernard Catholic Church, Sunrise, Florida: November 23, 2020
Someone was caught on camera throwing rocks at the church, then pouring accelerant in the garden and lighting it on fire. Statues of Jesus, Mary, and St. Francis were also damaged.\textsuperscript{275}

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Derry, Pennsylvania: November and December 2020
The church experienced multiple break-ins and acts of vandalism within the span of a few months, causing thousands of dollars in damages.\textsuperscript{276}

St. Louis Catholic Church, Houma, Louisiana: December 6, 2020
Someone broke into the church and left strange messages inside and outside, including “This is the end!” and “What is real will prosper.”\textsuperscript{277}

Mission San Juan Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, California: December 11, 2020
The 244-year-old church was tagged with graffiti on the front doors.\textsuperscript{278}

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Indianapolis, Indiana: December 25, 2020
The church nativity scene was vandalized.\textsuperscript{279}

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, Fall River, Massachusetts: December 26, 2020
Someone damaged several of the church’s stained glass windows.\textsuperscript{280}
**Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Houston, Texas:** December 29, 2020
A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe was struck by at least six bullets.²⁸¹

**2019**

**Filipino-American Mission Church and Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Comienzo, Sanford, North Carolina:** January 6, 2019
The church building was broken into, musical instruments were broken, televisions toppled, supplies scattered, and trash tossed around the sanctuary and other rooms.²⁸²

**St. Paul AME Church, Atlanta, Georgia:** January 21, 2019
The church was vandalized with graffiti, including “666” and “Payback.”²⁸³

**St. Patrick Catholic Church, Watsonville, California:** February 7, 2019
A woman caused $15,000 in damages during a vandalism spree that included pushing over a 15-foot crucifix statue on the altar, toppling another religious statue in a prayer room, and tearing down two large pieces of artwork.²⁸⁴

**Burton Memorial Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky:** February 8, 2019
The church building was spray-painted with an upside-down cross, a frowning ghost, and the phrase “God’s not real.” The parking lot was spray-painted with a message containing a racial slur and a smiley face.²⁸⁵

**St. John Catholic Church, Howell, Michigan:** February 18, 2019
The church’s property was vandalized at two locations with spray-painted graffiti.²⁸⁶

**Central Baptist Church, Conway, Arkansas:** February 28, 2019
A vandal destroyed $100,000 of church property, including laptops, cameras, and other electronics. Six months later, the perpetrator was baptized in the church’s baptismal pool by associate pastor Mike Lefler.²⁸⁷
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Montclair, California: March 1, 2019
Statues of Mary and St. Bernadette were beheaded.288

St. Mary Catholic Church, Neillsville, Wisconsin: March 1, 2019
Statues, picture frames, holy water stands, crosses, and candles were broken, and the baptismal pool was damaged. Prior to the attack, the alleged vandal had joined a cult.289

Greater Iowa City Church of the Nazarene, Iowa City, Iowa: March 3, 2019
The church was defaced with racist graffiti, including swastikas.290

St. Mary Baptist Church, Port Barre, Louisiana: March 26, 2019
In November 2020, Holden Matthews was sentenced to 25 years in prison for setting fire to three historic black churches, including St. Mary Baptist in March 2019.291

Wilborne Baptist Church, Waverly, Virginia: March 29, 2019
The church was vandalized with a black, spray-painted image on an outer wall. The skull-like image left church leaders and other observers puzzled as to its meaning.292

St. Margaret Mary Church, Chino, California: March 31, 2019
A statue of St. Margaret Mary was beheaded.293

Greater Union Baptist Church, Opelousas, Louisiana: April 2, 2019
This was the second historically black church set on fire by Holden Matthews (see March 26, 2019, above).294

Church in the City-Beth Abraham, Denver, Colorado: April 2, 2019
A Messianic Jewish (Christian) church was vandalized with graffiti, including a swastika.295
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Opelousas, Louisiana: April 4, 2019
This was the third historically black church set on fire by Holden Matthews (see March 26, 2019, above).296

Midway Presbyterian Church, Anderson, South Carolina: April 14, 2019
Vandals broke windows and spray-painted two messages on the church’s exterior walls: “SUBMIT TO GOD THRU ISLAM” and “MUHAMMED IS HIS PROPHET.”297

Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas: April 19, 2019
A woman spray-painted what appeared to be the word “Creep” on the building.298

St. Anthony Church, Maui, Hawaii: April 21, 2019
The church was vandalized on Easter Sunday, the second time in a month. Statuary, pictures, and relics of saints were destroyed, and the walls were written on with lipstick.299

St. John’s Cathedral, Fresno, California: April 24, 2019
A man threatened the bishop and priests, then proceeded to vandalize the statuary and break windows. He returned an hour later with a club, hit the church walls, and broke more glass and objects outside. The estimated cost of all the damages was over $25,000.300

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, Arizona: May 1, 2019
The church was broken into, burglarized, and vandalized.301

St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Phoenix, Arizona: May 1, 2019
The church was gutted by a fire.302

St. Matthew Catholic Church, El Paso, Texas: May 7, 2019
An attempt was made to throw a Molotov cocktail through the church’s windows. No windows were broken, and the device bounced on the sidewalk.303
St. Patrick’s Cathedral, El Paso, Texas: May 13, 2019
An attempt was made to throw a Molotov cocktail through the church’s windows. No windows were broken, and the device bounced on the sidewalk.304

All Saints Catholic Church, Babcock, Wisconsin: May 14, 2019
Religious hate slogans and swastikas were spray-painted on the church building.305

Babcock Community Church, Babcock, Wisconsin: May 14, 2019
The church building was vandalized with religious hate slogans and swastikas.306

Notre Dame de Lourdes Catholic Church, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania: May 19, 2019
The message “You do not have the right to decide how others live” was spray-painted across the church entrance. Another message, “#Prochoice,” was painted on the bricks at the side of the church.307

Faith United Church of Christ and Rehoboth Worship Center, Hammond, Indiana: May 29, 2019
Vandals inflicted thousands of dollars in damages to the organ, the altar, the office, and the bathrooms.308

The Word Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, Wisconsin: June 2, 2019
Vandals gained access to the church roof and spray-painted a depiction of male genitalia, an anarchy symbol, and the letters “G” and “D” on the building’s air conditioning unit.309

Hepsibah Baptist Church, Oconee County, South Carolina: June 2, 2019
The church was vandalized with satanic graffiti and related emblems.310

Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Tallahassee, Florida: June 10, 2019
The cathedra and presiders’ chairs were set on fire, the sanctuary walls were charred, and there was smoke damage.311
Friendship United Methodist, Seneca, South Carolina: June 11, 2019
Over 20 headstones in the church graveyard were displaced.\textsuperscript{312}

Flowing Wells Assembly of God, Tucson, Arizona: June 13, 2019
The church was vandalized with satanic messages, profanity, and related symbols.\textsuperscript{313}

San Judas Tadeo Catholic Church, El Paso, Texas: June 15, 2019
A Molotov-cocktail-like device was used to start a fire inside the church.\textsuperscript{314}

Greater Bethlehem Temple Church, Jackson, Mississippi: June 17, 2019
Vandals spray-painted graffiti on the church’s exterior and broke a window.\textsuperscript{315}

Legacy International Worship Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: June 19, 2019
A Syrian refugee was arrested for allegedly planning to bomb the church. He pleaded guilty in September 2019.\textsuperscript{316}

New Life Assembly Church, Lima, Ohio: June 20, 2019
The church’s exterior was spray-painted with the messages “God is a woman, and she is gay,” “Love is love,” “Pride,” “God is dead,” “All people are equal,” and “Be kind.”\textsuperscript{317}

Second Baptist Church, Palermo, Maine: June 25, 2019
A church sign with movable lettering was changed to read, “Jesus Made Adam & Steve, Not Adam & Eve.” It previously said, “Jesus Made Adam & Eve, Not Adam & Steve.” A pro-life poster that was located below the sign was stolen.\textsuperscript{318}

First Lutheran Church, Crowley, Louisiana: Early July 2019
Vandals threw a padlock through a stained glass window in the first of five incidents in Crowley in 2019.\textsuperscript{319}
St. Augustine Catholic Church, Lamont, California: July 1, 2019
Video cameras captured a man breaking into a church office, using a microwave to warm up and eat homemade tamales (for which the church’s fundraisers are locally famous), relaxing for a few hours, then ransacking the office and making off with televisions and phones.320

Johnson Chapel AME Church, Santa Ana, California: July 2, 2019
A man confessed to vandalizing the church’s exterior with a large pipe.321

Kawaiahao Church, Honolulu, Hawaii: July 3, 2019
Vandals damaged more than two dozen headstones in the church cemetery.322

St. James Cathedral, Seattle, Washington: July 8, 2019
A mentally ill man attacked a statue with a rock, breaking the arm of the child Jesus and damaging the face of Mary.323

Antelope Springs Methodist Episcopal Church, Snyder, Colorado: July 14, 2019
The 104-year-old church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was set on fire, resulting in extensive damage to the interior.324

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Brookfield, Connecticut: July 14, 2019
Graffiti reading “Abolish ICE” was discovered on an exterior wall of the church.325

Bible Baptist Church, Pickens, South Carolina: July 20, 2019
A wall was graffitied with a call to release a local man accused of committing a pipe bombing. Two other churches nearby were also vandalized.326

Pickens View Wesleyan Church, Pickens, South Carolina: July 20, 2019
The tires of a church van were slashed. Two other churches nearby were also vandalized.327
Stoney Ridge Missionary Baptist Church, Eldersburg, Maryland: July 27, 2019
A vandal spray-painted obscenities on the church’s front sign and exterior. The graffiti included the word “Racist,” swastikas, devil worship symbols, and curse words.328

Living Hope Covenant Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado: August 3, 2019
The church, which has been repeatedly vandalized, was spray-painted with satanic graffiti.329

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan: August 7, 2019
Vandals spray-painted satanic imagery on the church’s doors along with “666.”330

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bryson City, North Carolina: August 7, 2019
A vandal sledgehammered a crucifix outside the church building and two inside. During the incident, a group of female parishioners was in the church basement for a birthday party.331

Maranatha Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Montgomery, Alabama: August 25, 2019
The church’s sound system was thrown on the sanctuary floor, tapes and CDs were scattered on the pews, the pulpit and pews were overturned, drawers were open, and items were strewn about.332

Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, San Jose, California: September 1, 2019
Satanic and antisemitic graffiti was spray-painted on the outside walls.333

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Lynn, Massachusetts: September 6, 2019
Two icons were vandalized with anti-Christian symbolism, including an upside-down cross, the number “666,” and an anarchy symbol.334

South Bay Pentecostal Church, Chula Vista, California: September 7, 2019
Vandals spray-painted graffiti on the church walls, including messages promoting “Lucifer,” “Satan,” and “King of Hell.” The church has been openly critical of the Chula Vista Public Library for sanctioning an event at which drag queens read to children.335
St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church, New York, New York: September 8 and 15, 2019
A vandal damaged the rosary stations, parish signs, and sprinkler system. In a previous incident a week earlier, the same person was caught on video tearing down signs and damaging plants in the church parking lot.336

Newhall Church of the Nazarene, Los Angeles, California: September 12, 2019
Deputies arrested a nearly naked man after he allegedly vandalized the church and ran onto the freeway.337

St. Michael Church, Jersey City, New Jersey: September 13, 2019
The face of a statue of Mary was covered with feces and a cigarette.338

Ideal Family Church, Dallas, Texas: September 16, 2019
One of at least seven churches in the area vandalized with anti-Christian messages in red spray paint.339

Singing Hills Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas: September 16, 2019
One of at least seven churches in the area vandalized with anti-Christian messages in red spray paint.340

Pearly Gates Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas: September 16, 2019
One of at least seven churches in the area vandalized with anti-Christian messages in red spray paint.341

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas: September 16, 2019
One of at least seven churches in the area vandalized with anti-Christian messages in red spray paint.342

Beth Eden Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas: September 16, 2019
One of at least seven churches in the area vandalized with anti-Christian messages in red spray paint.343

St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas: September 16, 2019
One of at least seven churches in the area vandalized with anti-Christian messages in red spray paint.344
St. Phillips Missionary Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas: September 16, 2019
One of at least seven churches in the area vandalized with anti-Christian messages in red spray paint.345

Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, Greer, South Carolina: September 17, 2019
A church cemetery was vandalized in what was described as the latest in “a growing list of more than a dozen Upstate churches damaged in property crimes over the past year.”346

Mammoth Cave Baptist Church, Mammoth Cave, Kentucky: September 21, 2019
The historic structure was spray-painted with letters and drawings.347

Venture Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi: September 24, 2019
Vandals covered multiple windows, walls, and doors with red spray paint, including the bizarre phrases “God forbids materials in heaven” and “Why so serious?”348

Chapel of the Holy Cross, Sedona, Arizona: September 25, 2019
A vandal swung a crowbar at the altar and spray-painted the word “Evil” outside on the sidewalk. A tweet about the incident observed that the vandal was “screaming about the Catholic Church supporting human trafficking as he left.”349

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Bayonne, New Jersey: September 25, 2019
A man uprooted a crucifix outside the church, threw it on the ground, and smashed it against a wall, breaking it into pieces. This was at least the third church in the county to be vandalized that month.350

One Church, Memphis, Tennessee: September 29, 2019
The church’s new sound equipment and the previous week’s tithes and offering were stolen. The sanctuary was vandalized, with paint spattered on the walls and carpet and chairs slashed. Community members helped clean up the wreckage, lifting the spirits of the congregation.351

St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Syracuse, New York: October 1, 2019
A “666” and a pentagram were spray-painted on a wall, a side door, and the wheelchair access ramp.352
St. Theresa Catholic Church, Crowley, Louisiana: October 11, 2019
A glass door at a historically black church was found shattered by a brick or piece of concrete.353

New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas: October 16, 2019
The church’s exterior was vandalized with racist graffiti, which included the name of a street gang, a Nazi symbol, and obscene drawings.354

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Crowley, Louisiana: October 16, 2019
A brick was thrown into the historically black church’s glass door.355

First Church of the Nazarene, Crowley, Louisiana: October 16, 2019
A glass door was broken by a brick or piece of concrete.356

Revival Temple Church of God in Christ, Las Vegas, Nevada: October 18, 2019
An African American church was vandalized with a spray-painted swastika.357

Jerusalem Baptist Church, Crowley, Louisiana: October 21, 2019
A brick was thrown into the historically black church’s glass door, making it the fifth church to have been targeted in Crowley in four months.358

Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, Corpus Christi, Texas: October 29, 2019
Someone threw glass and candle wax at an outdoor statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe.359

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New York, New York: November 3, 2019
A former New York University sociology processor was arrested and charged with hate crimes after he allegedly uprooted plants outside the Brooklyn church, threw them at the main church door, and damaged a $5,000 statue of a saint. Monsignor Jamie Gigantiello believed the perpetrator was drunk, but he added that the disturbing exhibition of “violence, anger, and hatred” was “definitely an attack on the Catholic Church.”360
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta, Augusta, Georgia: November 16, 2019
The building was painted with a Star of David (representing the Jewish faith) in a circle with a diagonal line crossing through it and the quote “God will not be mocked.”  

First Lutheran Church, Crowley, Louisiana: November 22, 2019
Vandals struck a church in Crowley for the sixth time in five months. This attack was the second for First Lutheran Church. The glass windows at the church’s education center were shattered with a brick or piece of concrete. 

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, El Paso, Texas: December 5, 2019
A vandal destroyed nearly a half-dozen windows and doors and started a small fire in one of the parish offices. This was the fourth El Paso Catholic church to be vandalized in 2019.

2018

Church of the Angels, Pasadena, California: January 13, 2018
Vandals sprayed graffiti on the inside of the 129-year-old church before setting a fire and causing substantial damage to the church’s interior.

Salt and Light Presbyterian Church, Buford, Georgia: January 17, 2018
Someone stole a church van and set it on fire in another location.

Resurrection Catholic Church, Los Angeles, California: January 25, 2018
The church suffered an arson attack and vandalism.

Bessie Road Baptist Church, Piedmont, South Carolina: January 28, 2018
Two large wooden crosses were cut down outside the church.
Joy Fellowship Church, Piedmont, South Carolina: January 28, 2018
The church was spray-painted with the words “Venceremos por el Diablo,” or “We will overcome for the devil.”

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Mitchell County, Georgia: January 30, 2018
An arson attack heavily damaged the interior of the church.

Living Word Lutheran Church, Orland Park, Illinois: Late January 2018
The church endured multiple acts of vandalism, including broken windows, attempted arson, and graffiti.

St. Augustine Catholic Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma: February 18, 2018
Someone shattered a window and broke a statue of Mary.

Life Spring Community Church, Simpsonville, South Carolina: February 25, 2018
Vandals spray-painted “To hell with Billy Graham. We venerate satan. We love him” on an exterior wall. Another church in the area experienced a similar incident at the same time.

Pentecostal Church of God, Piedmont, South Carolina: February 25, 2018
Vandals spray-painted “Down with Billy Graham, the devil lives,” along with satanic symbols outside the church. Another church in the area experienced a similar incident at the same time.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho: March 3, 2018
The church was vandalized, and $10,000 in property was stolen.

Upward Baptist Church, Flat Rock, North Carolina: March 4, 2018
The church was vandalized with vulgar messages directed toward Jesus and Rev. Billy Graham.

Seed Planters Church McDonough, McDonough, Georgia: March 19, 2018
Vandals spray-painted satanic and other offensive imagery around the building.
Our Lady of the Lake Church, Verona, New Jersey: March 25, 2018
Statues of Jesus, St. John, and Mary were broken on Palm Sunday.377

New Vision Ministries Church, Lincolnton, North Carolina: March 24-25, 2018
A church sign, the parking lot, and a dumpster were spray-painted with offensive symbols, including “666” and swastikas.378

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Diego, California: April 2, 2018
Someone threw a wooden kneeler through a window of the church and proceeded to vandalize the building.379

Lake Bowen Baptist Church, Inman, South Carolina: April 5, 2018
Teens broke into the church and strewed chocolate sauce, caramel, jelly, sprinkles, soap, and snow cone syrup across the church floor and walls and stuck knives in the wall.380

Bethel Church of Nazarene, Spokane, Washington: April 6, 2018
Multiple people broke into the church and ate food from the church kitchen, stole a guitar, and ripped a drinking fountain and urinal off of the walls, causing $2,000 in damages.381

Milford Heights Church of Christ, Goshen Township, Ohio: April 8, 2018
A juvenile broke into the church, took grape juice from the fridge, and splattered it across the walls.382

Bethel AME Church, Clinton, Iowa: April 27, 2018
The church was defaced with hateful and racist symbols and messages in permanent marker.383

St. Kierans Church, Heckscherville, Pennsylvania: Early May 2018
The church was broken into, church pews, pipes, and electrical wiring were cut out of their places, and a side window was shattered.384
St. Brigid’s Church, Amherst, Massachusetts: May 2, 2018
Statues were destroyed, a baptismal font was broken, and a window was smashed with a cross.385

Noonday Baptist Church, Northeast Cobb, Georgia: May 8, 2018
The church was vandalized in a series of recent church vandalisms in the area.386

St. John Kanty Church, Buffalo, New York: May 15, 2018
Someone broke a statue outside the church with a baseball bat and left a note that read, “This building will be destroyed” and “Catholics are a man-made religion.”387

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Short North, Ohio: May 26, 2018
Someone ransacked the cathedral, destroying a valuable stained glass window and seriously damaging various items, causing $100,000 worth of damage.388

Mission San Juan, San Antonio, Texas: June 21, 2018
Vandals sprayed water on the walls of the mission, let it sit, and then scrapped off the first layer of plaster, causing extensive damage to the building.389

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania: July 2018
The church experienced multiple incidences of vandalism in addition to drug paraphernalia and a knife being left around the church.390

Bolling Methodist Church, Butler County, Alabama: July 3, 2018
Someone attempted to start three fires in a historic church. A satanic star was also carved in one of the church pews.391

Welcome Baptist Church, Union, South Carolina: July 6, 2018
An upside-down cross was burned into a column, slashes were made in the siding, and the words “Hail Satan” were carved into a flood board.392
St. Charles Borromeo Church, North Hollywood, California: July 25, 2018
Someone broke into the church and attempted to start three fires, then ransacked the building.393

Union Baptist Missionary Church, Suffolk, Virginia: July 30, 2018
Someone broke into the church with the intention of destroying church property.394

Mercy Tabernacle Church, Benton, Tennessee: August 15, 2018
The church building was destroyed in an arson attack.395

St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church, Merrillville, Indiana: August 20, 2018
A priest was brutally assaulted and left unconscious by his attacker, who said he was acting in response to a sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church.396

Los Molinos United Methodist Church, Los Molinos, California: August 25, 2018
Someone attempted to commit arson by igniting a propane tank behind the church.397

St. Mary's Church, Milford, Massachusetts: August 31, 2018
Four people stole artifacts and ransacked the church building.398

Walnut Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee: September 18, 2018
Teenagers broke into the church and wrote racist slogans inside of Bibles and on the door, including “KKK.”399

Allendale United Methodist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida: September 23, 2018
The church sign was vandalized.400

Old Mission Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California: October 10, 2018
A historic building was vandalized with the words “Rape” and “Genecide” (misspelled by the vandals), and the front doors were smeared in red paint.401
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Seattle, Washington: October 18, 2018
Someone threw Molotov cocktails at the church during an evening service. Two hundred people were in attendance, and one Molotov cocktail was thrown directly at a security guard, but he and the congregants were unharmed.\textsuperscript{402}

First Baptist Church, Jeffersontown, Kentucky: October 24, 2018
A would-be shooter made an unsuccessful attempt to enter the church before heading to a neighboring grocery store and killing two people.\textsuperscript{403}

Joppa Church, Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky: October 28 and November 1, 2018
In separate instances, vandals left graffiti on the floor of the historic church, and multiple windows were found broken.\textsuperscript{404}

Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia: November 3, 2018
Someone called in a false bomb threat during a church service, which resulted in the congregation having to shelter in place while the authorities investigated the situation.\textsuperscript{405}

Church of God-Holy, Antioch, California: November 26, 2018
Offensive words and symbols were spray-painted on the exterior of the church building.\textsuperscript{406}

Our Lady of Consolation Roman Catholic Church, New York, New York: December 2, 2018
A vandal urinated on and then destroyed two statues outside the church.\textsuperscript{407}

Church For All Nations, Vienna, Virginia: December 5, 2018
A vandal broke into a Korean American church, destroyed a glass altar, and caused approximately $1,000 in damages.\textsuperscript{408}

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, North Carolina: December 21, 2018
Vandals ransacked a church building ahead of Christmas. Tables were overturned, instruments were damaged, and broken glass was strewn across the floor.\textsuperscript{409}
St. Joseph’s Polish Catholic Church, Globeville, Colorado: December 28, 2018
Vandals smashed a church nativity scene, destroying statues of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.410

First Baptist Church, Vigor, Texas: December 30, 2018
An armed man was headed to a Texas church to “fulfill a prophecy.” He entered a restaurant early in the morning and asked employees for a ride to a specific church, which the employees refused. After noticing the gun in his hand as the man walked away, an employee called the police, and he was promptly detained before the situation escalated.411

St. Patrick-St. Anthony Catholic Church, Grand Haven, Michigan: December 30, 2018
Two masses were canceled after a man put fireworks inside the church and attacked someone who was helping prepare for mass.412

Arielle Del Turco, M.A., is Assistant Director of the Center for Religious Liberty at Family Research Council.

A special thank you to Chris Gacek, Ph.D., Laura Grossberndt, Andrew Davenport, and Sebastian Vasquez for their extensive research for this report.

---


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States


33 Ibid.


37 Fort Collins Police Services, “We need your help identifying the suspect responsible for vandalizing a Catholic church located at 1220 University Avenue,” Facebook post, May 7, 2022, https://www.facebook.com/fortcollinspoliceservices/posts/385965323580934.


39 @FrPlant, “Our tabernacle was stolen last night. We don’t know who did it but the police are investigating. Please pray for us and for those who committed this criminal sacrilege. If you have any information that can help in the investigation, please call our office: 281-391-4758,” Twitter post, May 9, 2022, https://twitter.com/FrPlant/status/1523669071975563265.


44 @roman_orthodoxy, “St. Louis Catholic Church in Louisville, #Colorado,” Twitter post. May 9, 2022, https://twitter.com/roman_orthodoxy/status/1523843010328416258.


52 Ibid.
53 Ibid.
54 Ibid.
59 Ibid.
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States


@LindsayAWatts, “NOW: @FairfaxCountyPD investigating vandalism at a Reston Catholic church tied to overturn of Roe v Wade,” Twitter post, June 26, 2022, https://twitter.com/LindsayAWatts/status/1541187028779503616.


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


89 Ibid.

90 Ibid.


Ibid.


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


133 Ibid.

134 Ibid.

135 Ibid.

136 @MrAndyNgo, “Far-left, pro-abortion demonstrators chant, ‘F— the church, f— the state’ at a protest against the Catholic Church outside St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan,” Twitter post, September 26, 2022, https://mobile.twitter.com/mrandyngo/status/1574563147633008664?s=12.


147 Ibid.


157 Ibid.
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States


214 Ibid.

215 Ibid.


218 Ibid.

219 Ibid.

220 Ibid.

221 Ibid.

222 Ibid.


231 Ibid.

232 Ibid.


Ibid.


“Ibid.”


Ibid.


Ibid.

Jonah McKeown, “St. Junipero Serra statue defaced, pulled down on California’s Indigenous People’s Day,” Catholic News Agency, October 13, 2020,
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States | December 2022


274 Ibid.


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


294 Hutchinson, “Holden Matthews sentenced to 25 years for setting fire to 3 historically Black churches in Louisiana,” ABC News.
296 Hutchinson, “Holden Matthews sentenced to 25 years for setting fire to 3 historically Black churches in Louisiana,” ABC News.
301 “Phoenix church gutted by fire, while 2nd church and school are broken into and vandalized,” KOLD News 13, May 1, 2019, https://www.kold.com/2019/05/01/phoenix-church-gutted-by-fire-while-nd-church-school-are-broken-into-vandalized/.
302 Ibid.
304 Ibid.
306 Ibid.
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


312 Field, “Upstate church vandalized with satanic graffiti; graves at another church desecrated,” WYFF 4.


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


327 Ibid.


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


340 Ibid.

341 Ibid.

342 Ibid.

343 Ibid.

344 Ibid.

345 Ibid.


352 Wyatt, “Five churches vandalized in Crowley since July; suspect could be charged with hate crime,” The Acadiana Advocate.
Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States


355 Wyatt, “Five churches vandalized in Crowley since July; suspect could be charged with hate crime,” The Acadiana Advocate.

356 Ibid.


358 Ibid.


368 Ibid.


Ibid.


Hostility Against Churches Is on the Rise in the United States

December 2022 | No. IS22L02


