

Worship

FAITH & VALUES

Cross on New Haven hillside fulfills man's dream

BY KATELYN NORRIS
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Joe Larry Mattingly fulfilled his lifelong dream.

Last week, Mattingly saw years of work and decades of dreams come to fruition as his cross was erected on the hill above St. Catherine Church's cemetery in New Haven.

Born in 1948, Mattingly has been dreaming of building a cross to place on the hill since he was a child.

When the cross finally was lifted into place and secured last Friday, the act brought tears to Mattingly's eyes.

"I've been working hard to get this up," he said. "It's for the love of the Catholic religion I have and the Christian faith, and we have got it set up. I hope it lasts a great number of years and continues to let the world know that Jesus Christ is our Savior, and that's what it's all about."

"I'm really relieved that this finally is going to be standing up."

The nearly 50-foot-tall cross is pristine white, casting its shadow over the hundreds of gravestones below. The tall, metal cross is anchored by a beam encased in cement, which serves as the structure's base. To the right of



KATELYN NORRIS/Paxton Media Group

Joe Larry Mattingly was smiling after achieving his dream of having a massive cross erected above the St. Catherine Cemetery in New Haven.

the cross is a bell and a plaque asking those who ring it to recite the Lord's Prayer.

Mattingly said he had a goal to put the cross in place since he was child. Over the last several years, he has gathered the supplies and the people who have lent a helping hand in making it happen.

"Once we get it erected, I don't have to be concerned about it anymore," he said.

"The purpose of it will take place once we get it up in the air and all the gravestones ... they're my people. As I was growing up in New Haven, I could walk up to any of those stones and read that last name and remember who they were."

Mattingly said it's a great blessing for him that he's had the chance to live in New Haven and be a part of the St. Catherine Parish. He said



KATELYN NORRIS/Paxton Media Group

A cross nearly five-stories tall is put in place on the hill behind St. Catherine Cemetery in New Haven last Friday.

all the people buried in the cemetery are his loved ones — first cousins, grandmas, grandpas, neighbors and friends. They're all special to him because they were members of the church he grew up in.

Trey Moore and Ryan Rockhold with Pistol Ridge Land Services joined the project last year after Mattingly reached out to Moore about finishing up the project. Rockhold said he got chills after seeing the cross put in place. Moore

said he's glad they were able to see the project complete and to be a part of it.

"I came and saw him early this week," Moore said of Mattingly. "My biggest fear with all this was with his illnesses and stuff along the way. ... By the grace of God, here we are today, and we've got my cross up, we've got every almost everything that he's set for over the last five or six years, we've finally seen it. I'm just glad to be a part of it."

The students of St. Catherine Academy gathered at the bottom of the hill to see the cross put into place. Mattingly's grandchildren joined him atop the hill along with his wife, who said she was proud to see him accomplish his goal.

A special moment for Mattingly on Friday was learning a snake had found a home in the cross. The snake reminded a friend of Mattingly's of a moment from the Book of John: "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

A grim list: Notable attacks on U.S. houses of worship

Statistically, attending a weekly worship service is a remarkably safe thing to do. Global annual attendance totals many billions; the number of people killed in attacks on individual houses of worship in any given year is generally less than a few hundred. Killings

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in the U.S. are even more rare.

But an attack on Monday targeting a mosque in San Diego — the latest in a spate of recent attacks targeting religious buildings — has intensified fear among clergy and worshippers.

Here are some of the notable attacks on U.S. houses of worship in the past 15 years:

- May 18, 2026: Two teenage suspects opened fire at the largest mosque in San Diego County on Monday, killing a security guard and two other men before killing themselves, authorities said. The case is being investigated as a hate crime.

- March 12, 2026: An armed man crashed his pickup truck into the Temple Israel synagogue in the Detroit area and then killed himself while exchanging gunfire with security. The 41-year-old shooter had just lost four members of his family in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon. Israeli authorities said some of his family were members of the

Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah.

- Sept. 29, 2025: Four people were killed and nine more wounded when a man in Michigan drove his pickup truck into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township and set its chapel on fire. The 40-year-old gunman was killed by law enforcement responders. The FBI said he had "anti-religious beliefs against the Mormon religious community."

- Aug. 27, 2025: Two children were killed and several others injured in a shooting during Mass at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis. The shooter, who authorities say died of a self-inflicted gunshot, was a former student at the parish's school.

- Oct. 27, 2018: Eleven Jews attending services at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh were fatally shot by a white supremacist with a history of anti-semitism. The gunman faces execution after his conviction on multiple federal charges.

- Nov. 5, 2017: A family feud is believed to have prompted the deadliest mass shooting in modern Texas history. Twenty-five people, including a pregnant woman, were killed at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs.

- June 17, 2015: A young

man participated in a Bible study session at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and then killed nine people.

The victims included the senior pastor, Clementa Pinckney. The avowed white supremacist awaits execution as the first person in the U.S. sentenced to death for

a federal hate crime.

- Aug. 5, 2012: Six people at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in the town of Oak Creek died shortly after being shot by a 41-year-old

white supremacist who had discussed a racial holy war. One of the injured victims died in 2020 from his head wound, becoming the seventh fatality.



LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE JENNINGS CIRCUIT COURT)
) SS:
COUNTY OF JENNINGS)
CAUSE NUMBER: 40C01-2512-JC-000060
IN THE MATTER OF: JH - DOB 8/1/2018 A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES AND PAUL HALL (FATHER) MARIAH STEELE (MOTHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING
TO: Paul Hall and Any Unknown Alleged Father

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, as well as Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are also unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court. **YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED** to appear before the Judge of the Jennings Circuit Court, 24 North Pike Street, Vernon, IN 47282 - 812-352-3082 for a(n) hearing on 14 day of May, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing. **UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING** will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support. **YOU MUST RESPOND** by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

Amey Thompson
Clerk

Michael T. Troutman, 37915-22
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services

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FREE CHURCH SAFETY CLASS OFFERED TONIGHT IN RADCLIFF

A free class on church safety and security is being offered from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1591 Hill St., Radcliff. The instruction is being conducted by Delta Defense. To register, visit the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church's Facebook page, where a link is provided.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

FRIDAY
Revival meetings with Evangelist Jonathan Shuttlesworth of Revival Today, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Abundant Life Church, 1511 S. Dixie Blvd. in Radcliff. Free admission, free parking. Register at alcky.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3563978. POC: 270-351-9990.

WEDNESDAY
U-Turn Youth Ministry, 6 p.m., Abundant Life Church, 1511 S. Dixie Blvd., Radcliff. Prayer, 6:15 p.m., games 6:35, start 7 p.m., pickup 8:45 p.m. POC: 270-351-9990.