

Fun Ride through Church History

Indiana witnessed a surge of German immigration in the 1830's and 1840's. For the German Catholic newcomers to the frontier state, it was important to be associated with a church, where they could practice the religious life they had been accustomed to in their homeland. A resident German-speaking priest and a school with German teachers were their foremost goals for a continuation of German culture and tradition.

Many of the nineteenth century German churches in Indiana no longer exist. Shifts in ethnic neighborhoods and urban sprawl have contributed to their disappearance. Along with the buildings, the altars, pulpits, murals, and statuary have been lost. The remaining churches have undergone major alterations, since changes in liturgy were introduced in the 1960's after Vatican II. Yet much beauty can still be admired in a number of southern Indiana German-Catholic churches.

Southern Indiana witnessed a rapid growth of the Catholic population, due to the arrival of Germans in the river counties and the eastern counties of the area. They developed rural immigrant communities, where they established farms and small businesses. New parishes were founded and new churches needed decorations. By 1860, eight southeastern counties had twenty-seven Catholic churches. Experience the nine Catholic churches as you ride through history in Franklin County.



For more information contact: www.franklincountyin.com • 866-647-6555



Indiana's FRANKLIN COUNTY Vatican Ride



Come for the History...
Stay for the Fun!





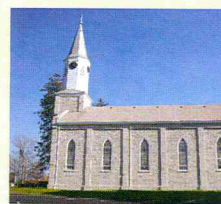
START Tours In Oldenburg



1 Oldenburg
Holy Family Parish
[Est. 1837] • Main Street
(812) 934-3013



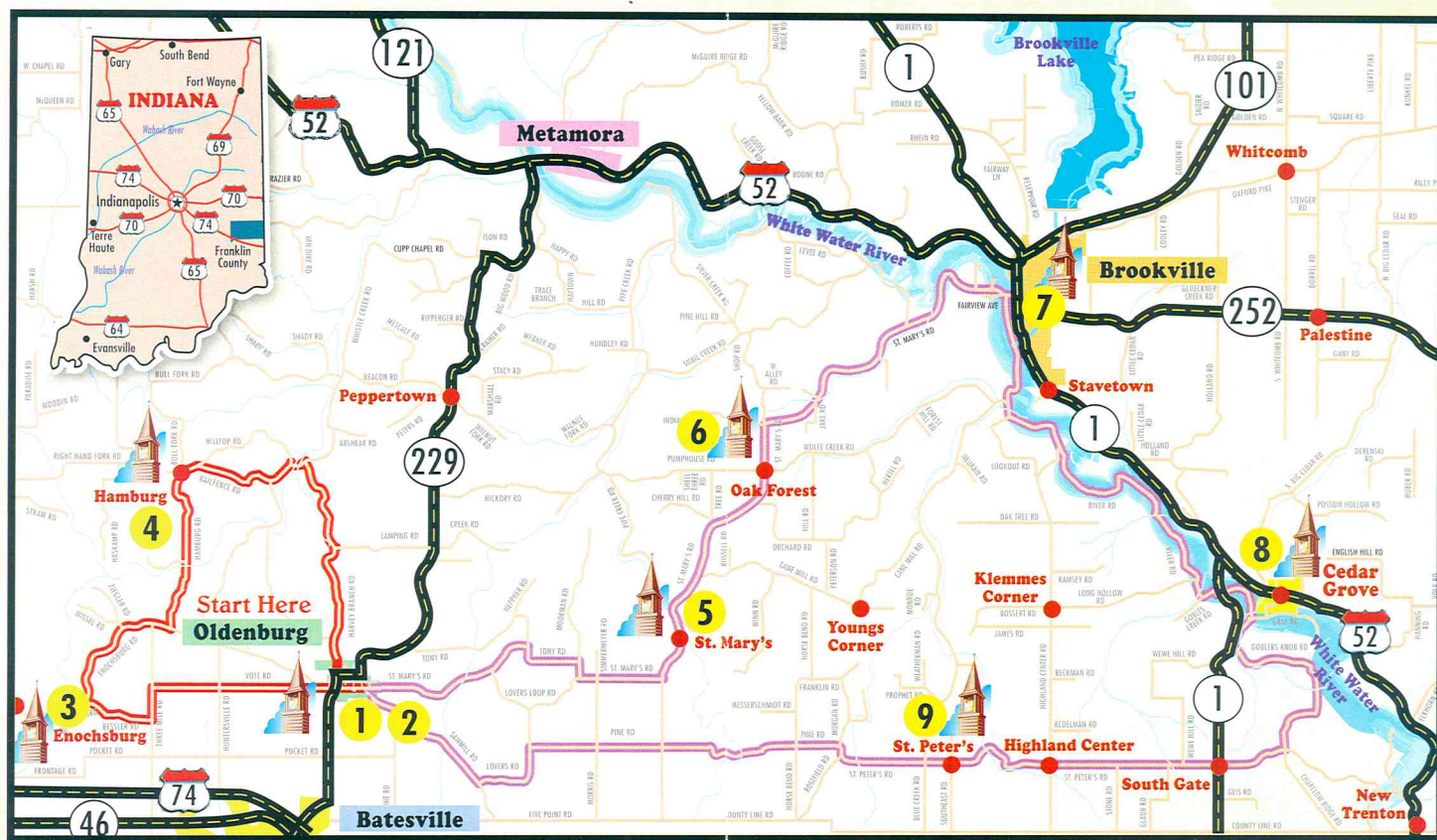
2 Oldenburg
Sisters of St. Francis
P. O. Box 100
(812) 934-2475



3 Enochsburg
St. John the Evangelist
[Est. 1844] • 9995 Base Road
(812) 934-2880



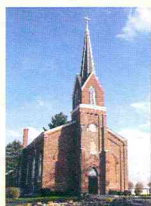
4 Hamburg
St. Ann's Church
[Est. 1869] • 5267 N. Hamburg Rd.
(812) 934-5854 or (812) 934-2880



Loop #1 Family ride - 17.2 miles

Loop #2 Expert rider - 44 miles

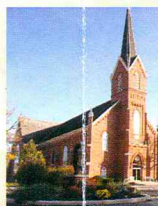
Vatican Ride (Both Loops Together) - 61.2 miles



5 St. Mary's
St. Mary-of-the-Rock Parish
[Est. 1844] • 17440 St. Mary's Rd.
(812) 934-4165



6 Oak Forest
St. Cecilia of Rome Parish
[Est. 1844]



7 Brookville
St. Michael Parish
[Est. 1845] • 354 High Street
(765) 647-5462



8 Cedar Grove
Holy Guardian Angels Parish
[Est. 1874] • 405 U.S. Hwy 52
(765) 647-6981



9 St. Peters
St. Peter Parish
[Est. 1838] • 1207 East Rd.
(812) 623-3670

Please operate bicycles safely! We recommend wearing helmets and using other protective gear, always yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians. Bike riding the roads/highways of the Vatican Ride, which are shared with motor vehicles, possess inherent risk. Therefore, the Franklin County Visitors Commission, this map and the Vatican Ride do not imply a safe route. Nor does its presence create a remedy or liability that was not already present under the law. All risks associated with bike riding are assumed by the rider. Indiana motor vehicle and cyclists' laws should be consulted for bicyclists' privileges, rights and responsibilities.