

# St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Brenham, Texas

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*Photo courtesy of James Smock Photography.*

Just 77 miles from Houston is the quaint town of Brenham, Texas, the home of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church located in the Austin diocese.

Pictured is St. Mary's third and present church which began construction in 1935. The entire project cost about \$100,000. Bishop Christopher Byrne consecrated the church on May 3, 1936. It was built during the twelfth year of

the pastorate of Msgr. Charles Wasilewski. Built in the architectural style of Renaissance Revival by architects Leo M.J. Dieleman and Alex Griffen. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

Established on November 19, 1870 as the second Roman Catholic parish in Washington County Texas. The parish was founded and supported by Irish, German and Polish families who were engaged in a variety of businesses in the early days of the town's history. It is the oldest spiritual home to Polish families in the county. Besides Catholics of Polish, Anglo, German, Czech and Hispanic backgrounds, it has also welcomed immigrants from Viet Nam and the Philippines.