

Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 7:02 AM

Subject: Around the Diocese: May 26, 2025





PROCESSION IS COMING TO TULSA



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Pilgrimage**

NEP Arrives Friday with Mass, Procession, Festival, Adoration

TULSA — Thousands of faithful from around the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma, as well as pilgrims from neighboring states, are expected to descend on Tulsa this Friday afternoon and evening for a 4.2-mile Eucharistic Procession through town followed by a Eucharistic Festival at Holy Family Cathedral as part of the [National Eucharistic Pilgrimage](#) visit to Oklahoma.

The NEP entourage will arrive in Miami, Oklahoma, this Friday morning, where an Opening Mass will take place at 11:30 a.m. at [Sacred Heart Catholic Church](#). Bishop Konderla will celebrate Mass to receive the Eucharist from the Diocese of Wichita.

From there, the Eucharist will be caravanned, along with the eight perpetual pilgrims to Tulsa, where a Eucharistic Procession through midtown and downtown will take place later that afternoon. Thousands are expected to join along the 4.2-mile route beginning at 4 p.m. from the University of Tulsa's [Donald W. Reynolds Center](#). Parking on campus is provided, and procession participants should plan to gather at TU by 3 p.m. From there, the Eucharistic Procession will take to the city streets and make a stop at the Parish of Christ the King before continuing downtown to its destination at Holy Family Cathedral with a planned arrival at approximately 8 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water and snacks for the procession.

The Cathedral will host a Eucharistic Festival from 8-10 p.m. with live music and pizza. Shuttle buses will carry procession participants from HFC back to the parking areas at TU that evening.

All Night Adoration will take place inside the Cathedral until 9 a.m. the following morning. The faithful are then invited to gather again at the Cathedral for a Closing Mass at 10 a.m. Saturday. From there, the Eucharist will caravan to [St. Gregory's](#)



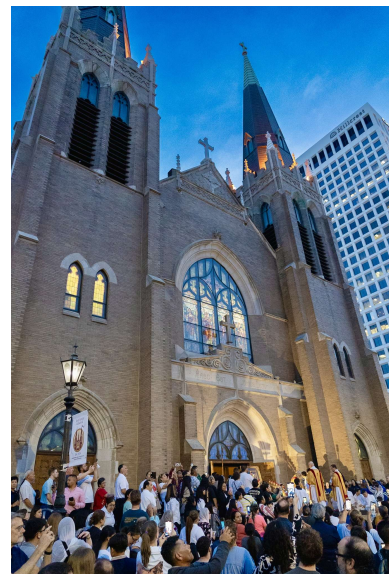
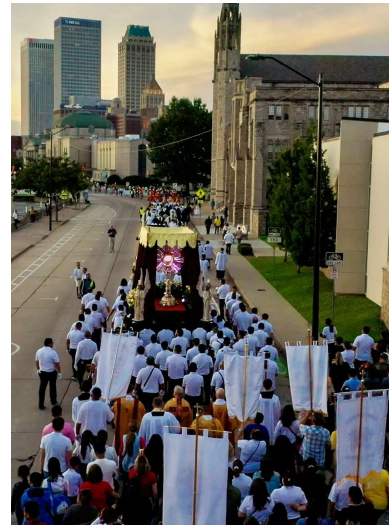
[Abbey](#) in Shawnee, where it will be received by the [Archdiocese of Oklahoma City](#).

Volunteers are still needed for various tasks and time slots on Friday Sign up to volunteer at [SignUpGenius](#). For more, see the story below.

The Tulsa leg of the NEP is made possible in part through the support of Tulsa's two Catholic hospitals — [Ascension St. John](#) and [Saint Francis Health System](#).

"We are thankful for the partnership of Ascension St. John and Saint Francis Health System," said Fr. Gary Kastl, vicar general for the diocese. "Their support has helped the diocese provide the proper hospitality and safety to the pilgrims that will walk with our Eucharistic Lord as the National Eucharistic Procession passes through the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma."

All events are free and open to the public.



Volunteers Needed at Procession and Festival

TULSA — As the old axiom goes, "many hands make light work," and many local volunteers will be key to the success of this weekend's [visit by the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma](#). Several tasks and time slots remain to be filled.

With thousands of participants and visitors from outside the diocese expected, large hospitality teams of 20 people are needed at both the University of Tulsa's Reynolds Center, where Friday's procession forms and starts, and at its terminus at Holy Family Cathedral. Volunteers are needed to welcome pilgrims, answer questions, and provide directions. Tasks include serving cookies and pizza, set-up and tear-down, and hospitality.

Cathy Miller, a local committee member helping to plan and execute delivery of food, water, and other services before, during, and after the procession, has launched a webpage at SignUpGenius.com for people to sign up to fill volunteer shifts during the day on Friday.

"Help is needed before the procession to receive and arrange cookie donations, set up tables, and figure out crowd flow," says Miller. "Feeding everyone at the cathedral after the procession will require dozens of servers. Transferring food from the kitchen and hot boxes outside will help step counters reach their daily goal and earn stars in their crowns!"

Each volunteer will receive a commemorative T-shirt (pictured below) as a way of saying, "thank you" for their service to the diocese.

To contact Miller or to sign up as a volunteer, go to: SignUpGenius.com.



SCOTUS Deadlock Upholds State Court Ruling Barring Catholic Charter School

BROKEN ARROW — On Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it had deadlocked 4-4 in a case involving what would be the first of its kind in the nation Catholic online charter school, thus leaving in place an earlier ruling by the Oklahoma

Supreme Court which found that creation of the school would violate the state constitution.

"Families across the state of Oklahoma deserve the educational opportunities presented by [St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School](#)," the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma stated in a joint press release issued Thursday afternoon. "We are disappointed that the Oklahoma State Supreme Court's decision was upheld in a 4-4 decision without explanation."

The decision in this case, officially known as "Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board v. Gentner Drummond, Attorney General of Oklahoma," split the eight participating high court justices and was not accompanied by any legal opinion. Justice Amy Coney Barrett recused herself from the case.

"We remain firm in our commitment to offering an outstanding education to families and students across the state of Oklahoma. And we stand committed to parental choice in education, providing equal opportunity to all who seek options when deciding what is best for their children."

— Joint statement from Archbishop Paul Coakley and Bishop David Konderla

"We are grateful to Governor Kevin Stitt and his courage in supporting school choice," the statement continued. "And we are thankful for the generous representation provided by Notre Dame Law School's Religious Liberty Clinic and by Michael McGinley at Dechert LLP."

In light of the SCOTUS ruling, leaders at the archdiocese and diocese are exploring other options for offering a virtual Catholic education.

"It has been our privilege to represent St. Isidore and to fight for the freedom for people of all faiths to serve the public good," said [John Meiser](#), Counsel to St. Isidore and Director of Notre Dame Law School's Religious Liberty Clinic. "(Thursday's) evenly divided decision unfortunately fails to vindicate that fundamental right. We are disappointed most of all for the hundreds of children for whom this school would have opened a new world of opportunities."

[G. Marcus Cole](#), the Joseph A. Matson Dean & Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School, echoed those sentiments in a statement.

"We are, of course, disappointed that the Supreme Court, by a 4-4 decision, has allowed to stand the Oklahoma Supreme Court's decision permitting discrimination against Catholic and other religious organizations hoping to serve children with a values-based education," said Cole. "As long as people of faith are treated as second-class citizens, we will need to work twice as hard to serve our neighbors and our communities."

For more background about the case, click [here](#).



Supreme Court of the United States

Bishop Ordaines Meneses as Transitional Deacon, Dunbar as Permanent Deacon

TULSA — Two men of the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma were ordained deacons last week by Bishop David A. Konderla.

Seminarian Adrian Meneses was ordained as a transitional deacon, and Deacon Candidate Stephen Dunbar was ordained a permanent deacon during Friday evening ceremonies at Holy Family Cathedral.

The night before, the ordinands, along with their families, seminarians, and faithful, gathered for solemn vespers held at the Cathedral.

Deacon Meneses assisted in Mass of thanksgiving as a deacon on Sunday at his home parish, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Muskogee. He will serve as a deacon at St. Pius X in Tulsa. Dcn. Meneses graduated from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana last month. He is expected to be ordained a priest in December.

Deacon Dunbar assisted in a Mass of thanksgiving Saturday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Krebs, his home parish, where he will continue to serve as a permanent deacon.

To see more photos from Friday night's ordination, click [here](#).



EOC Photos by Daniel McCay

100 Years Ago, Part 3: The Day a Cardinal and Seven Bishops Visited Pawhuska

(Editor's Note: This is third and final excerpt from historian Rev. James D. White's book, Tulsa Catholics, detailing the May 1925 visit of Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, to Oklahoma.)

"Responding to the speeches of the evening, Cardinal Hayes said, 'You have told me how much this day has meant to you. I doubt if you realize how much it has meant to me. Today I have sunk the spade into your soil; there we will sow Christ. From there will grow a church that is to be a source of strength and benediction to your whole city. I have laid the cornerstone for your great hospital, and I have consecrated your finished monument to Christ, your church. Never before in my life have I done these three things in one perfect trinity of a day. It is an indication of life, promise, and permanence. As today has marked a great day in my life, may it be to you symbolic and typical of your work.'

"The next morning, the cardinal's train left for Pawhuska. There, the cardinal and his party—including seven bishops — were feted at the ranch of Pierce St. John, a prominent Osage."

"At four o'clock, Cardinal Hayes dedicated the newly enlarged parish church, administered confirmation to a hundred parishioners, and received an Osage ceremonial headdress. After a final entertainment at the Pawhuska Country Club, the cardinal boarded the train again for Oklahoma City. On Friday, he proceeded to Dallas and New Orleans, thence to Chicago and finally home to New York.

"Cardinal Hayes' visit to Oklahoma was nothing less than a triumph. In those royalty-conscious days, a genuine prince, even a prince of the Catholic Church, was an object of wonder and admiration, and the cardinal drew great numbers of Oklahomans wherever he appeared. His presence dominated the state media for days, and reporters found him approachable and easy to interview. For the Catholic community, the visit provided a great boost of morale."

(A complete excerpt from the late historian Rev. James D. White's book, Tulsa Catholics, detailing the May 1925 visit of Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, to Oklahoma, can also be found on the [Holy Family Cathedral website](#).)



In May, 1925, Bishop Kelley and Cardinal Patrick Hayes of New York were honored by the Osage Indian Nation, a traditionally Catholic tribe. Third from the left, in front, is Chief Bacon Rind.

ABOVE: In this unidentified newspaper clipping, Bishop Kelley and Cardinal Hayes visit Pawhuska and meet with Osage Chief Bacon Rind. **BELOW LEFT:** Pawhuska's Immaculate Conception Church is pictured on the day of its dedication in this 1925 archival photo. **BELOW RIGHT:** The contingent of bishops, priests and altar servers gathered for the Dedication of Pawhuska's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.
(Photos courtesy Diocese of Tulsa & Eastern Oklahoma Archives)



St. Bernard Parish Honors Lechtenberg for 46 Years of Service

TULSA — On Sunday, May 18, the Parish of [St. Bernard of Clairvaux](#) hosted a retirement party for their Director of Religious Education, Sharon Lechtenberg. She is retiring after serving for 46 years.

"We are grateful for her love, dedication, and servant's heart," wrote church leaders in the church bulletin. "May the Resurrected Lord bless her abundantly in her retirement. Congratulations, Sharon!"

To see photos from the event by EOC Correspondent Lori Scholl, click [here](#).



Continuing Their Journey: Bishop Baptizes, Confirms St. Brigid Youth

TAHLEQUAH — Torrential rain and occasional claps of thunder accompanied Mass at St. Brigid Catholic Church on Sunday morning as Bishop David Konderla confirmed and/or baptized several youths in front of an overflow crowd.

Once the church proper was filled, the faithful took temporary seats or stood in the packed foyer, with some still left outside seeking refuge from the rain under the building's roofline. The special occasion in the life of the parish was concelebrated with St. Brigid Pastor Father David Medina.

Amid flashes of lightning that made the church's sound system crackle, Bishop Konderla told the newly baptized and confirmed young people that this was only the beginning of their spiritual journey. The bishop explained that even at the age of 65, he was still learning more and more about the Kingdom of Heaven.

"Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot say, 'Jesus is Lord,'" said Bishop Konderla. "If we believe that Jesus is the Savior, it is because the Holy Spirit is helping us believe that. Look how important the Holy Spirit is. Because without Jesus, we cannot be saved, right? And without the Holy Spirit, we cannot believe in Him. So, we need the Holy

Spirit. And that's why the parish is celebrating today, to give the Holy Spirit to these young people.”

Following Mass, a reception was held in the parish hall while the rain continued.



From the Editor...

After months of planning and preparation at both the national and local levels, and with much buildup and anticipation, the National Eucharistic Procession will finally arrive in eastern Oklahoma this weekend.

Make plans to be part of this perhaps once-in-a-lifetime event in the life of the local Church by attending all or part of the Eucharistic Procession on Friday afternoon and the Eucharistic Festival that follows at Holy Family Cathedral. This will be a tremendous opportunity for the local Church to not only be welcoming hosts to those who are visiting us but also bear witness to our non-Catholic friends here at home.

A couple of notes: If you did register on the national website and are now receiving event information from NEP about Friday's procession, please note that the Church of the Madalene is no longer part of the procession route. In consultation with the City of Tulsa, it was determined that traffic logistics and safety did not make it feasible. As a result, the route has been reduced to 4.2 total miles from the University of Tulsa's Reynolds Center to Christ the King and then to Holy Family Cathedral.

Those intending to join the procession at the beginning should plan to assemble at the Reynolds Center at 3 p.m. Plenty of parking will be available on adjacent campus lots. If processing the entire route, shuttle buses will be provided that evening to transport you from the Cathedral back to your vehicle at TU.

An additional note: this National Eucharistic Pilgrimage procession will take the place of the traditional Corpus Christi procession this year.

And just one more appeal on behalf of the planning committee for local volunteers! Can you serve cookies or pizza, provide hospitality, or accompany the procession? We need you! Please sign up for a time slot [here](#).

On a final note. My wife and I had a unique and unanticipated experience yesterday morning. While spending the holiday weekend at a state park, we had planned to attend Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey. But floodwaters turned us away at the last minute. Scrambling to find another nearby parish with a Sunday morning Mass we could still attend, we saw that we could make it to Tahlequah a few minutes late. It was worth the trouble as Bishop Konderla was there to celebrate Mass as well as baptize and confirm several youth of the parish. In spite of the downpour, thunder, and lightning outside, it was a beautiful (and crowded!) time of worship inside. Sometimes things just seem to work out the way they're supposed to.

I hope you are having a safe and enjoyable extended Memorial Day weekend. Until next week, thanks for reading!

Chris Rush
Chief Editor



"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" — Philippians 4:8

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LOOKS GOOD



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