



Mike's Missal



May 2024

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 720326

Norman, OK 73070

administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org

www.stmichaelsnorman.org

Sunday Service is at 10:00 A.M.

Live on YOUTUBE

From Father Joseph The Task of Theology

Theology is, first and foremost, an attempt to integrate the head's knowledge ("I believe that I have a spouse") with the heart's knowledge ("I believe in my spouse"). It is this second kind of knowledge that gives our lives meaning. But it is the first kind of knowledge which leads us nearer to objective truth. Where objective truth (head knowledge) and faith (heart knowledge) are at odds, cognitive dissonance arises. The work of theology is to reconcile these differences.

Every human being engages in theology. Atheists reject the idea that creation has a Conscious and Loving Source. That is their theology. Jews and Muslims reject the idea of God as Trinity because their theological and linguistic/cultural frameworks do not permit it. That is their theology. I dare say, most of us engage in the work of theology every time we say the Creed. Although we often think the Creeds tell us what we should believe, most of us have to make sense of it for ourselves at some point, integrating our own reason and experience with our understanding of Scripture, and with a mind to the ways in which the broader traditions of the Church have understood it.

This is the "Three-Legged Stool" of Anglican/Episcopal theology: Scripture, tradition, and reason. Reconciling and integrating these three pillars of our Christian life -the teachings of scripture, the understanding of the larger tradition, and the experience of our own lives - is the work of theology. It is the work of every Christian.

*Seek and you will find.

*Knock and the door will be opened.

*Discern/test the spirits, remembering that God is love, and that whoever abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

From Senor Warden David Zittel

Thank you to everyone who helped make Bishop Poulson Reed's visit an outstanding success on April 14th. I appreciated all the hard work that went into putting the luncheon together. After the luncheon, Bishop Poulson attended the monthly vestry meeting and was very complimentary about the vitality of the congregation and choir. (It helped that Jon Roberts knew the anthem for that Sunday held a special meaning for the bishop.) The bishop noted that the congregation was singing and that there were folks of all ages in attendance. He was pleased that we allowed the children to be children and did not expect them to be silent. Some of his observations he posted on his FB page and Amy Gardner copied them to our FB page. We are blessed to have Fr. Joseph as our Priest-in-Charge.

St. Michael's will be an active participant in the Norman Pride event on the weekend of May 4th with both a float in the parade and a booth. I am continually amazed at Suzie Cassidy's creativity and Deacon Laura Blazek's organizational skills.

We have put together a financial audit team to prepare an annual report for the diocesan office. Members of the team are Jim Lanphere, Sachia Miller, and Howard Moore.

Deacon Ann's special project for her Iona project will be a Trivia Games night scheduled for Saturday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Michael's. On May 14th, we will distribute flyers inviting members of the neighborhood to join us. This project fits in nicely with the long-range plans that came out of the vestry retreat. On April 28th, Fr. Joseph announced that Deacon Ann will be ordained to the priesthood in August at St. John's Tulsa. I asked her if she had a preferred title of address such as Rev. Ann Murray or Mother Ann Murray and she said no but would probably let the congregation decide.

One member of the congregation has expressed an interest in developing a support team for those of us who have special needs or have family members with special needs. The exact format has not yet been determined. I do believe respecting privacy and confidentiality should be part of this team's plans.

We need to update our Disaster Planning document to include how to respond to an active shooter situation, especially considering recent news. Our current team is Tina Mahle, Katie Blair and I. We are aware of the three basics: run, hide, fight but will be looking for diocesan guidance on completing this portion.

Bishop Poulson's Visit April 14, 2024



MAY EVENTS



Pride Weekend May 5 & 6

See Page 6 for details.

Book Discussion Group May 5

The Book Discussion Group will meet at 1:00 pm on Sunday, May 5th. See book details below.

Wild Men's Night Out May 10

Saint Michael's men's group will meet for an evening of fellowship and conversation on our usual 2nd Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Join St. Mike's men for The Best Steak You Ever Had for only \$15.⁰⁰. Donations are always appreciated. Salad, baked potatoes, garlic bread and a plentiful selection of craft beers complete the menu. Please sign-up before May 8. Contact: Brandt Cassidy

Care-A-Van Meals for the Unhoused May 16

May and June have main courses, but we need people to sign up for sides and extras. Deacon Ann will provide lasagna in May; Tom and Ann Selvidge will prepare chicken in June. You may sign up through the end of the year. Food is prepared at home and boxed up at 5:00 p.m. on the date. We always need water and extra snacks if you don't want to cook anything. Contact: Debi Kelley

Saucy Sisters May 17

The Saucy Sisters will gather at 5:30 p.m. and dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. on May 17th. The cost is \$10, but your first time is free. Please sign up in the ingathering space.

St. Mike's Trivia Night May 18

Invite your friends and neighbors to St. Mike's Trivia Night at 6:00 p.m. on May 18th. We'll have snacks, sodas, tea and FUN! This is an outreach event, designed to engage with our community. At 6:00 p.m. on May 14 we will distribute flyers in the neighborhood.

Pentecost Sunday May 19

We need parishioners on Pentecost Sunday to read in unison in different languages. Contact: Nancy Littlejohn.

Vestry Meeting May 19

The Vestry will meet following the service on Sunday May 19th in the Education Building.

Southwind Graduation May 23

The Kindergarten Class of 2024 will graduate at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 23.

Office Closed for Memorial Day, May 27

Other Ministries & Events

Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Candles

If you notice the altar without flowers, it is because no one signed up to provide them for that Sunday. If you would like to provide flowers or candles for a particular Sunday, a sheet is in the sign-up area. It can be in memory, thanksgiving or celebration. Cost of flowers is \$45, Candles are \$10. You can either pay ahead of the date (check payable to St. Michaels' with Altar flowers in the memo) or we will send a bill following the Sunday the flowers are on the altar. Contact: Debi Kelley

Altar Guild

We appreciate the beautiful altar on Sunday mornings, and all the work done by our wonderful Altar Guild. If you are available once every few weeks on a Saturday morning to help set the altar and Sunday morning after church to clean the altar, please contact the church office.

Bible Study

The study of the Old Testament continues from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. Come read with us.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group will meet at 1:00 pm on Sunday, May 5th. We'll discuss *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez.

García Márquez's international breakthrough came with the novel *Cien años de soledad* (1967) (*One Hundred Years of Solitude*). He is one of the foremost interpreters of magical realism in literature, a genre in which the framework narrative is set in a real place and time, but supernatural and dreamlike elements are part of the portrayal. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. The book group meets the first Sunday of each month. Contact: Carol Wittmer.

Book Sale

We continue to collect books in the choir room for our next sale. Contact Amy Gardner for details.

Budget & Finance Committee

The next budget meeting will be June 25. Action items: We proposed an additional \$10 stipend when one of our paid singers directs the choir and moving St. Cecelia's funds and 2023 book sale funds to reimburse paid singers. So far, the budget is in line with expectations! Contact: Amy Gardner

Care Team

If you have a need for delivered meals or transportation, please let Debi or Nancy know. If you would like to join the Care Team, a sign-up sheet is available.

Choir

St. Mike's choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. If you are interested in singing in the choir, contact Parish Musician, Jon Roberts.

Churches Caring for Creation

St. Mike's Styrofoam drop-off has moved to the garden side of the Education Building. The Densifier will be at the Shawnee Public Library on Saturday, May 4th from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. We densify weekly at University Lutheran Church, and volunteers are always needed. Contact Doug Bowden at 405-831-9951. Donations for this project should be made to University Lutheran or to St. Michael's for tax purposes. Contact: Tina Mahle, Green Team

Crafters

Our crafters meet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Monday. We have a good supply of yarn for you to use. Contact: Amy Gardner

Cursillo

A Cursillo weekend is scheduled for Sept. 5th-8th at St. Crispin's in English and for Sept. 19th-22nd in Spanish.

St. Michael's is active in the renewal of the Oklahoma Episcopal Cursillo. Fr. Joseph is the chaplain for the Secretariat (state-wide board) and Amy Gardner is a member. Cursillo is a movement of the Episcopal church. Its purpose is to help those in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian Leaders. Leadership, in Cursillo, does not mean power over others, but influence on others; all of us need to be aware that we can exert a positive influence on those around us.

St. Michael's will have an Ultreya (meeting of those who have made or are interested in making the weekend) on Saturday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in going to a Cursillo weekend, or forming a reunion group, please contact Amy Gardner or Father Joseph Farber.

Discretionary Fund

The last Sunday of each month (May 26) all offering plate cash goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Please consider putting cash in the plate on the last Sunday or donate any time by writing "Discretionary Fund" on a check. These funds are used to address unexpected needs.

Facility Use

Anyone using St. Mike's buildings for a purpose outside of regular church activities, must contact the office and complete an *Application for Facilities Use*. We need to have a record of all activities in our buildings and ensure that usage is appropriate.

Financial Report

Property Insurance (quarterly)	\$5,542.75
ACS (Pledge software)	\$281.00
Diocese Mutual Ministry	\$3,775.29
Worship Materials	\$328.69
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	\$270.00

As of this writing we are doing well in the financial area. Most pledges are up to date, which helps immensely. This summer we will have significantly higher electric bills along with the cost of mowing.

Greeters & Ushers needed!

Sign up to serve as a greeter or usher. It is important that we warmly greet everyone. Contact: Santa Velez.

Lawn Mowing

Our lawn and property mowing costs \$580.00 a month for seven summer months. Each mowing is \$290.00. If you would like to make a special gift for this maintenance, please indicate "lawn" on your check.

Laundry Love

St. Michael's will sponsor Laundry Love on August 24th from 9-12 at Sooner Wash. We will provide about 50 of our neighbors with up to \$15 in laundry (including detergent, bleach, and dryer sheets) and a lunch. Save your quarters, as we need about \$900 to sponsor laundry and lunch. This is the back-to-school event, so we will collect school supplies in Sharon's Wagon in June and July.

Neighbors are also provided with breakfast from Dunkin' Donuts, dog and cat food from St. Francis Animal Resource Center, feminine products from Period OKC, and new socks from Sox of Love. Contact: Amy Gardner

Lectio Divina

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. in the Library

Lectio Divina is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. Dating back to the early centuries of the Christian Church, it was established as a monastic practice by Benedict in the 6th century. It is a way of praying the scriptures that leads us deeper into God's word. We slow down. We read a short passage more than once. We chew it over slowly and carefully. We savour it. Scripture begins to speak to us in a new way. It speaks to us personally and aids that union we have with God through Christ who is himself the Living Word. Contact: Rt. Rev. Wallis Ohl (ret)

Lent Madness & Alms Update

We had one person who picked The Golden Halo winning saint! The winning saint was Julian of Norwich and Amy Gardner was the only betting pool participant who picked Julian for the win. She requested that the \$120 we raised be used for Laundry Love.

Lenten Almsgiving boxes update: During Lent, many people took almsgiving boxes as a daily practice for the giving of alms, i.e. money, for outreach ministry. A total of \$243.33 was returned at Easter! This will be used for our Laundry Love outreach ministry.

Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

Wonderful News!!! Many of you purchased card sets to help raise funds to bring a family (parents and six sisters) from Kabul to the U.S. The oldest daughter was already in Norman with her husband (OU students). The entire family is now in Norman as of April! Thanks for your support. St. Michael's is in need for a volunteer to serve on the board of the NCRS. The board member should initiate fundraising

and volunteer recruitment at St. Michael's. Contact Amy Gardner

Outreach Committee

The next Outreach Meeting will be June 1st at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Amy Gardner

Photo Release Forms

We need a signed form from everyone so that we have a record of your permission to be in photographs that may be used in our digital presence. Pick one up from the entrance counter and leave it in the office.

Prayer Chain and List

David Sims is the new coordinator for the Prayer Chain Team. Please direct private prayer requests to him at davidsims82420@gmail.com. The Prayer List printed in Sunday's bulletins will start anew at the beginning of each month. Please submit the names of those you wish to be added to the May published prayer list this week. The list will continue throughout the month so additions may be made at any time. Contact: Nancy Littlejohn

Rummage Sale

Save the date for St. Mike's Rummage Sale on Saturday, August 24th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (set up on Aug. 23 starting @ 1 pm.) Please consider donating gently used items to our rummage sale in August. We take most items including clothes as long as they are clean, in good condition, and working. See the bulletin board for a list of items we will not take.

Sharon's Wagon

Sharon's Wagon is in honor and memory of Sharon Vaz who had great compassion for those in need. We fill her wagon with items for those in need in our community. In May we will collect items for Fostering Futures. They are especially in need of shorts and T-shirts (2T) in basic colors, flip flops (all sizes), beach towels, microfiber twin sheet sets or crib size, and twin mattress covers. Additionally, teenage items such as journals are always needed. We will collect school supplies during June and July for Laundry Love.

Sign Up Counter

Opportunities for Participation are on the Sign-Up Counter. We have many ways for you to be involved in the life of St. Mike's – check it out!

Tea in the Kitchen Al-Anon Family Groups

Tea in the Kitchen Al-Anon Family Group is for the friends, family, and loved ones of someone who is struggling with addiction. All are welcome! We meet on Fridays at 8:00 p.m. in the Education Building.

Vestry at St. Michael's

The Vestry meets after the 11:00 service on the 3rd Sunday of the month. All members are welcome to

visit vestry meetings. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the bulletin board.

St. Michael's Website

Katie Blair and Tim Phillips are the webmasters for our site. Please help them out by sending them current information or new photos.

Yoga Class

Join instructor Anne Roberts on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. Each class session is \$10.00.

Norman Pride Festival and Parade

The festival is on Saturday, May 4th from noon to 10:00 p.m. in Andrew's Park and the parade is at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 5th in downtown Norman. Sign-up sheets are on the counter to pack bread, work at the booth, and walk in the parade.

Pride Bread. All baked bread must be at the church by Friday, May 3rd. You can put them in the church freezer before then or bring them to the prep event on Friday at 5:30 p.m. Please make sure you defrost them on Thursday.



Pride Prep Friday, May 3rd at 5:30 p.m. We need volunteers to help pack our swag bags for the festival.

Pride Festival, Saturday, May 4th at Andrews Park in Norman. We will have a booth from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (this includes set up and breakdown time). You can volunteer for one or more 1-hour shifts. Volunteers will stand in front of our booth to engage festival goers, hand out goodie bags and help people sign up for the raffle. We ask all volunteers to wear a St. Michael's Pride shirt or a St. Michael's shirt. Bring a chair if you need to sit and a water bottle. Debi Kelley has graciously made and donated this quilt for us to raffle off for free at the festival!

Pride Parade, Sunday, May 5th in downtown Norman. Susie Cassidy is building our Lego themed float, "Building Love Together". We need people to walk with the float to hand out 'goodies' during the parade. There are a limited number of spaces to ride on the float. We will gather at 6:45 p.m. at our float on Comanche St. south of the train depot.

Contact: Deacon Laura Blazek

May Days to Remember

Birthdays

5/2 Vicki Blythe
5/2 Rosa Valdes
5/8 Lilly Stout
5/9 Tim Phillips
5/9 Jennifer Hancock
5/10 Lynn Robertson
5/11 Amy McGovern
5/11 Anne Million
5/15 Janis Schwarzkopf
5/16 Jeremy Wance
5/19 Kathy Rodrigues
5/20 Tyson Fleming
5/21 Susie Cassidy
5/21 Robert Green

On the anniversary of their death



5/12/1990 Elmer Million
5/15/1997 Margaret Buck
5/26/1997 Robert Brandenburg
5/28/1997 Wesley Bates
5/11/1998 Muriel Johnson
5/30/1998 Margie Morgan
5/20/2004 Robert Sharp
5/01/2006 Patti Whistler
5/17/2007 Zana McAfee
5/11/2008 Carl Stokes Jr.
5/30/2012 Margaret Smith
5/17/2013 Dan Scott
5/27/2013 Robert Martin
5/01/2022 Betty Eick

Handy Information

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the office at 405-321-8951 during regular hours, or call Father Joseph, Deacon Laura, or Deacon Ann in case of emergency outside office hours.

Office Hours: Monday – Wednesday 9:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M. Thursdays 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

St. Michael's Webpage: www.stmichaelsnorman.org

St. Michael's Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6273015521>

St. Michael's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZX8EOJFq5VykhED5K9q8eA>
Subscribe to receive update notices when we post new videos for worship or other resources.

Father Joseph Farber <mailto:fr.jos.farber@gmail.com> 541-300-9207

Deacon Laura Blazek laurablazek@sbcglobal.net 405-639-0300

Deacon Ann Murray deaconann18@gmail.com 405-919-8533

Parish Musician Jon Roberts dachs.mirabilis@icloud.com 405-850-5252

David Zittel, Senior Warden David12330@gmail.com 405-834-8764

Tina Mahle, Junior Warden Tina.mahle@alumni.ou.edu 405-517-5142

Ann Selvidge, Treasurer annselster@gmail.com 405-365-8985

Nancy Littlejohn, Parish Administrator stmecnormanok@gmail.org 405-321-8951 or cell 405-924-2782

Debi Kelley, Financial Secretary, treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org 405-321-8951

OTHER CONTACTS:

Brandt Cassidy bgcassidy@cox.net 405-921-5772

Amy Gardner awgardner@yahoo.com 405-410-5523

Your 2024 Vestry

Evelyn Bibens
ejinok@aol.com
405.329.7509

Katie Blair
405.245.1073
katie.l.willis@gmail.com

Santa Velez
santagv@gmail.com
405.664.1020

Joshua Yarbrough
jry246@gmail.com
405.226.5187

Patrick Calhoun
405.59.-4919
phineas42@gmail.com

Timothy Phillips
Clerk of the Vestry
hrothgar@earthlink.net
405.625.9894

Debbie Bennett
turtle4661@aol.com
405.370.0697