



# Mike's Missal



March 2024

St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
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[www.stmichaelsnorman.org](http://www.stmichaelsnorman.org)

Sunday Service is at 10:00 A.M.

Live on YOUTUBE

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**From Father Joseph** One of the most persistent heresies in the Christian Church is the idea that God is “out there,” separate and apart from us. This is a very Greek idea of what God is. It is precisely the reason why Paul says that God’s incarnation in Jesus and his crucifixion was “scandal to the Jews and folly to the Greeks.” In the dominant Greek view, God was the source of the created world, but was far too perfect to have anything to do with this messy, nasty place.

The idea that God is outside the world, looking down upon it, but utterly separated from it persists. The common question “If there’s a God, why is there so much suffering in the world?”, generally supposes that God is separate from the creation and does not experience the sufferings of His/Her creatures. Moreover, it generally adopts the Greek view that God is a being, rather than Christian view that God is the Source of all being.

The dominant Jewish view also placed God outside of the created world; though, unlike the Greek view, He remained active in creation by means of His Word (Gr., *Logos*: the creative Self-expression of God’s Wisdom) and Spirit. But to the Jewish view, the idea that God would incarnate as a normal human being and then permit Himself to be crucified was “scandalous.”

The early Christians had a different understanding of God. At Mars Hill in Athens, Paul quoted a dissident Greek poet, Epimenides, to say that “we live and move and have our being *in* God.” And in his letter to the Ephesians Paul, in an offhand comment, reiterates the idea that God is “above all things and through all things and in all things.”

This is still a hard concept for us to grasp; but it lies at the very heart of what Christianity is about. Our God is never outside our struggles looking in; God is both outside and inside, sustaining and (when we permit it) redeeming the experience of the created world from within His creatures. Before Jesus was born, God’s *Logos* (Word), says St. John, was already “in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him.” So, to make Himself knowable to us, He became incarnate as one of us, sharing the human experience from a humble birth to an unjust and torturous death. It is very easy to forget just how intimately present and involved God is in our lives. God shares in every experience, our joys, our sorrows, our victories, and our defeats.

**From Senor Warden David Zittel** As a parish, we have carried on despite the covid pandemic which is still not entirely over. While our congregation is getting older, I am delighted to see new younger faces joining us on Sundays for corporate worship. Live-streaming our services was a necessity during the pandemic but, in my mind, cannot replace in-person corporate worship, the coffee hour following the service, and many other parish gatherings. In looking over our annual report, I see the many outreach and community activities that we participate in. But I see the same names in charge of these activities and am mindful that we avoid burnout. We may want to concentrate on and excel at fewer activities and invite others to help lead, me included. I see many families with small children in my neighborhood off Berry and just north of Imhoff and would love to have them visit us and perhaps stay. I see us continuing our rainbow outreach and participating in Pride events. Equally compelling is the need to support immigrants, the unhoused / needy, and care for the environmental. And I see the need for a support group for those of us with ailing family members. I trust that through prayer and discussion we will discern our mission.

## MARCH EVENTS

### **Library Committee      March 2**

The Library Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Vestry Retreat              March 2**

The Vestry will meet for their annual Planning Retreat from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Book Discussion Group    March 3**

The Book Discussion Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will discuss *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green. Anthropocene is the current geological age in which human activity has profoundly shaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this remarkable symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his podcast, John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet, from the QWERTY keyboard and Staphylococcus aureus to the Taco Bell breakfast menu on a five-star scale. The book group meets the first Sunday of each month. Contact: Carol Wittmer.

### **Pride Planning Team Meeting    March 3**

The 2024 Pride Weekend is Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> (Festival) and Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> (Parade). Please come to this planning meeting after the 11:00 service if you are interested in planning our participation in this community event. Contact: Deacon Laura

### **Budget & Finance Committee    March 5** **Online meeting 10:00 a.m.**

### **Wild Men's Night Out      March 8    7:00 p.m.**

St. Michael's men will meet for an evening of fellowship and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. For just \$15 you can enjoy giant ribeye steaks charcoal-grilled to perfection, baked potatoes, salad, garlic bread and a plentiful choice of craft beers. Non-steak-eaters are welcome to bring other items to grill. First-time participants & guests can enjoy all this for free. Please sign-up before March 6 Contact: Brandt Cassidy

### **Daylight Savings Time begins March 10**

Spring forward! Set your clocks ahead 1 hour at midnight on Saturday night, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Saucy Sisters                  March 15**

Evelyn Bibens is preparing this meal and hosting Saucy Sisters so we will meet at Evelyn Bibens' home. See Details on page 4. Space will be limited.

### **Book Sale                      March 16**

The book sale will be from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> with a bag sale before and after services on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed! Contact Amy Gardner

### **Vestry Meeting                March 17**

The Vestry will meet following the service on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> in the Education Building.


### **Care-A-Van Meals Prep for the Unhoused    March 21**

Our deepest thanks to those who continue to help with this ministry. We're signed up for the third Thursday of each month through the end of the year.

Sheets are out for sign up. If you have not helped with this ministry before and would like to, choose a month and sign up for what you would like to provide. Meals are for 50. You can be reimbursed up to \$50 for the main course. Don't cook? We always need extra snacks and water. Contact: Debi Kelley

### **Palm Cross Making Event    March 23 10:00 a.m.**

*In memory of Tim Kellogg  
With memorial donations, we  
purchased 54 new prayer  
books, including 4 in  
large print.*



## Other Ministries

### Altar Guild

We appreciate the beautiful altar on Sunday mornings, but it does not happen by chance. The Altar Guild needs a few more members to round out our ranks. 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 or Suzanne Moore.

### Big Event April 6

Students from OU will be here on Saturday, April 6 to serve our facility as part of the Big Event. Send project ideas to Junior Warden Tina Mahle.

### Book Sale March 16

We will begin to set up on March 10<sup>th</sup> after church. Volunteers are needed to sort all week, work at the sale, and clean up after! Sign up on the Sign-Up counter. Contact: Amy Gardner

### 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.

### Budget & Finance Committee

Our next meeting is at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Care Team

Our thanks to those who have been wonderful about providing meals and transportation for our home bound members. If you have a need, 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

The Densifier will be in action on March 2 at Blanchard (10:00 a.m.) and Newcastle Public Libraries (1:30 p.m.)

Due to the volume of foam, we densify weekly at University Lutheran, 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- 7:30p.m. every Monday. We have a good supply of yarn for you to use. Contact: Amy Gardner

### Discretionary Fund Easter Sunday, March 31

The last Sunday of each month 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.

### Financial Report

The year has started off well. Pledges are up to date and there are no major expenses so far. Some of the bills we paid out in February:

Lasher (heat and air)	422.25
ONG	986.97
Sumner One (Copier)	429.95
OEC Utilities	1197.95
Music	600.00
Worship Supplies	167.00

### Laundry Love

St. Michael's will sponsor Laundry Love in April so please begin to bring your quarters to support this ministry. We will need \$900 to pay for washing, drying and lunches. Contact Amy Gardner

### Library Books

The books in the church library have been reviewed and those no longer needed are available for members to take home. These books and old Prayer Books will be available in the ingathering space on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Any remaining books will be added to the book sale.

### Meals for the Unhoused

We continue to provide one meal per month for 50 of our unhoused friends on the third Thursday of every month. If you would like to help, please look at the booklet on the sign-up counter. Should you choose to do the main course, you can be reimbursed up to \$50. If we had enough parishioners interested, we could do this twice a month. Contact: Debi or Amy

## **Norman Coalition for Refugee Support**

St. Michael's is in need for a volunteer to serve on the board of the NCRS. This entails four yearly meetings, plus occasional reading material. The board member should initiate fundraising and volunteer recruitment at St. Michael's. Contact Amy Gardner

## **Outreach Committee**

The next Outreach Meeting will be in April. 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. Please pick one up from the entrance counter and leave it in the office.

## **Prayer Chain**

Members of St. Michael's have committed to praying daily for concerns that have been given to any member of the Prayer Chain. Our Prayer Chain is confidential. Please bring concerns to this group or if you feel called to this ministry. Contact: Amy Gardner

## **Pride Weekend**

Mark your calendars for May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for Norman's Pride Festival. Bring empty tissue boxes for the float! Contact: Deacon Laura

## **Pride Bread**

The mini homemade breads that we offer at the Pride weekend have been a huge success. Last year we had about 500 mini loaves!! WOW. Almost too many so this year we are aiming for about 400. Please make any kind of homemade bread from now until the end of April. So that the breads are a uniform size, please use pans that are approximately 3 & 7/8 inches by 2 & 1/2 inches. Specific instructions are available on a separate sheet at church. Thanks in advance for all you do. Contact: Kathy Rodrigues

## **Saucy Sisters**

Saucy Sisters are having a very special dinner in March hosted by Evelyn Bibens in her home at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. She will be serving lasagna, salad, and bread. She has room for 12 at her dining room table, so only 12 can be accommodated. Please sign up in the ingathering space.

## **Sharon's Wagon**

Sharon's Wagon will collect new children's socks and underwear for Fostering Futures. Although we are gathering underwear and socks, new items (from Premie - size 16) are always needed.

Fostering Future's "Luggage with Love" is in constant need of inventory items. They stock clothing for preemie through kids 14-16. Teens are given a gift card to pick out clothing to fit their own tastes.

Children entering a new foster care placement are given a suitcase with two complete outfits, 3 pair of socks, 3 pair of underwear, 1 pair of pajamas & 1 pair of shoes – as well as a coat, jacket, or swimsuit. The luggage also contains a blanket and age-appropriate book or toy and a small personal hygiene kit. This luggage is delivered to the placement provider, often the same day as the request was placed. They have a registry at [Walmart.com](http://Walmart.com) – search Luggage with Love in the last name under baby registry. They also have an [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) registry.

Fostering Futures only accepts donations of new clothing. Monetary donations are always graciously accepted – [Click here](#) to donate. All donations go directly to programs of service! Contact: Amy Gardner.

## **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 those struggling with addiction. Please join us, all are welcome! This group meets on Fridays at 8:00 p.m. in the Education Building.

## **Ushers & Greeters Coordinator needed!**

We need someone to schedule greeters and ushers. Contact: Fr. Joseph Farber

## **St. Michael's Website**

Katie Blair and Tim Phillips are now the webmasters for our site. Please help them out by looking at pages that belong to your group, keeping them updated on information that needs to be on the site, and giving suggestions for improvements.

## **Yoga Class**

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



# Preparations for Holy Week and Easter Season

Contact: Deacon Laura

## Stations of the Cross Booklets

We will have Stations of the Cross booklets and coloring sheets available on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for you to take home and use during Lent and to walk the Stations of the Cross the last few weeks of Lent.

## Palm Cross Making Event

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 a.m.

Please join us in the gathering hall at 10:00 a.m. on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to make Palm Crosses. The goal is to make 80 which will take about 1 hour.

## Donations to the Easter Flowers & Decor

On Easter Sunday the Altar will be adorned once again with lilies and other flowers. Envelopes are available for thanksgiving and memorial donations. For your tribute to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please have your envelope in the offering plate by Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> or to the church office no later than Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Lent Offering Boxes

Please remember to bring your Lent offering box to one of the Easter services. These may be placed in the offering plate or in the designated basket. If you can't attend one of our Easter services, please return it by the end of the Easter Season. Thanks for participating in this Lenten Discipline!

## Readers needed for Palm Sunday

Contact Deacon Ann to participate in the Palm Sunday Passion reading at the 11:00 service.

## Overnight Prayer Vigil following the Maundy Thursday Service until Friday at 7:00 a.m.

Sign-up sheets are available. Please consider giving an hour overnight. Security will be in the parking lot.

## Easter Vigil Reception

Join us for an Easter Vigil Celebration after the evening service on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Easter Day Events

### Flowering of the Cross 10:00 a.m.

As part of our Easter celebration, we will place flowers on a small cross that will be carried into the church and placed at the altar during the service. This is a fun event for kids, but adults are welcome to join. We will have cut flowers available to place on the cross and flowers from your home are wonderful additions and strongly encouraged. After the service the cross will be brought back into the gathering hall for people to remove the flowers and take them home.

### Easter Egg Hunt- following the 11:00 service

The Easter egg hunt is for all children up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It begins after the service is over, we have eaten, and everyone has their basket ready. An announcement will be made when the hunt is ready to begin. Kids are encouraged to bring their own Easter baskets for the hunt, and we will have baskets available for kids to use and take home if they would like.

The plastic eggs are filled with candy (chocolate and non-chocolate) and some with small toys. A list of items in the eggs with ingredients will be posted on the day of the hunt in case of allergies.

The hunt will happen regardless of the weather, outside or inside. Announcements will be made during the service about the egg hunt and location.

### Easter Celebration Coffee Hour Easter Sunday

We have a fantastic Easter Vigil Celebration on Saturday night March 30<sup>th</sup> with tables groaning with food. This means that there is always some food left over for Easter Sunday morning. However, since it is often mostly sweet stuff and bits and pieces of other dishes, we would like to have new food to set out in addition to the wonderful leftovers. Sign-up sheets are out to help us continue our Easter celebration.

### Easter Sunday- Help Needed for Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration Coffee Hour

We will need people to help "hide" the eggs before the hunt (specific time to be determined) and to help during the hunt and after to check for missed eggs. Help is needed to help clean up after the party is over. Please consider volunteering to help. Sign-up sheets are out.

## Holy Week and Easter Season Schedule



**Saturday, March 23 10:00 a.m. Palm Cross making**

**Sunday, March 24 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday**

**Thursday, March 28 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service  
with Overnight Vigil**

**Friday, March 29 Good Friday**

**7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer**

**11:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross**

**12:00 Noon Eucharist**

**6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross**

**7:00 p.m. Eucharist**

**Saturday, March 30 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil  
Easter Vigil Celebration Reception following**

**Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday**

**Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Flowering of the Cross 10:00 a.m.**

**Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration Coffee Hour**



## March Days to Remember

### Birthdays

3/3 James Cassidy  
3/5 Deacon Fleming  
3/11 Debbie Bennett  
3/15 Don Kelley  
3/16 Andrew Strout  
3/17 Melissa Gray  
3/18 Roger Smith  
3/20 Nathan Gray  
3/27 Karen Petrie

### Anniversaries

3/10/1984 Adam & Betty Falato  
3/15/1980 Jeff & Nancy Littlejohn  
3/23/1957 Richard & Nancy Hancock

### On the anniversary of their death



3/18/1979 Gladys Tout  
3/24/1980 Eva Appleby  
3/17/1984 Emma Rodriguez  
3/02/1984 Willie Gorham  
3/22/1987 John Miles  
3/23/2000 Neil Dikeman  
3/07/2002 Fred Shellabarger  
3/10/2007 Patricia Kellogg  
3/15/2012 B.G. Schumacher  
3/16/2012 Art Crucet  
3/27/2013 Phillip Linneman  
3/20/2014 Ruth Pearson  
3/21/2019 Wilma Jean Price

## Handy Information

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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](http://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.

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Deacon Ann Murray [deaconann18@gmail.com](mailto:deaconann18@gmail.com) 405-919-8533

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Debi Kelley, Financial Secretary, [treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org](mailto:treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org) 405-321-8951

### OTHER CONTACTS:

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### Your 2024 Vestry

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