



# Mike's Missal



October 2024

St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 720326  
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[www.stmichaelsnorman.org](http://www.stmichaelsnorman.org)

Sunday Services are at 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Live on YOUTUBE at 11:00

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## From Father Joseph Farber

This weekend, during our Patronal Feast of Michaelmas, St. Michael's celebrated 48 years as an outpost of the Kingdom of God in Norman. It was a marvelous gathering celebrating the lives and contributions of so many who have made this parish the beacon of God's welcome and love that it is in this community.

It has been said that Church is itself a sacrament. Church exists as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In this case, the particular grace is the experience of a community of humans living in a state of reconciliation and love with one another and with God - a foretaste of the kingdom of God. This weekend we got to take a moment and simply enjoy it and celebrate how much St. Michael's has meant to the lives of so many through the decades.

Jan and I vividly remember the openness and welcome we experienced when we first came as lay folk to St. Mike's in 2002. At the time, we did not know how hungry we were for that kind of connection; but we were elated to have found it, and it continues to enrich our souls, hearts and minds on a daily basis. The welcome we experienced is part of St. Michael's DNA, and that is because lies at the heart of what it means to be a Christian: To know oneself - and all creation - as beloved of God.

At the same time, we celebrate God's love for us, we also readily acknowledge that we routinely fail "... to love You with our whole heart," and that we "... have not loved our neighbors as ourselves." At God's altar we contemplate and often experience the grace that we want to foster in the rest of our lives and in the world. The life of a saint is always aspirationally holy - not that we are necessarily accomplishing it, but we really want to. We go back into the world in the confidence that God sees us, not necessarily for what we are and what we do, but for who it is we truly desire to be - like Him. The Christian life, it turns out, is not (usually) a converted life, but a life of ongoing conversion as we aspire to grow into the likeness of Christ. We are nourished and guided in that conversion by the "Great Cloud of witnesses" that are God's saints -- namely, you. That is why Church is important and why it's important for each of us to be as active in it as circumstances allow - for ourselves and for one another.

Day by day, dear Lord,  
of thee three things I pray;  
to see thee more clearly,  
to love thee more dearly,  
to follow thee more nearly,  
day by day.

- Richard of Chichester, 1197-1253

## From Senior Warden, David Zittel

I received from the diocesan office electronic Letters of Agreement (LOAs) for both Fr. Joseph and Mother Ann that define our mutual roles and responsibilities (job descriptions). The one for Fr. Joseph officially changes his title from Priest-in-Charge to Rector and the one for Mother Ann names her as a bi-vocational Associate Priest. Both positions will be part-time. The vestry were unanimous in approving the terms of both LOAs. Per the diocesan office's directive, we also approved amending the July vestry minutes to state that we are "*calling*" Fr. Joseph to be our Rector rather than simply asking for a title change. Once the diocesan office receives documentation, the diocesan office will send us LOA forms that can be signed electronically. Fr. Joseph's installation Celebration will be Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

I believe we had a very successful Michaelmas/Homecoming Celebration on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of this past month. We especially reached out to former church members both near and far. On Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful meal followed by a program of reminiscences about the formative years at St. Michael's and the addition of the education building with musical performances/skits blended in. We concluded the evening with a Compline Service. For the Sunday 11:00 am service on the 29<sup>th</sup>, we had two deacons, three priests, and a bishop leading the service! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped pull this together with special shout-outs to Evelyn Bibens for putting this together with help from Carol Zerboni, Nancy Littlejohn, Jon Roberts, Kathy Rodrigues, and Josh Yarbrough.

### **Stewardship Campaign – 2024 -2025**

Dear Parish Family,



This year's theme for our Stewardship Campaign is titled "Walk in Love." A stewardship campaign sometimes goes by other names such as "Every-member Canvass" or "Pledge Drive." However, I like "Stewardship" which, for me, seems most inclusive of the three "T's" – time, talent, and treasure. I see daily, weekly, and monthly, members of our parish family sharing the first two "T's": that is Time and Talent for such activities as for Laundry Love and Gay Pride events and for fellowship with the Saucy Sisters, Wise Women, and Wild-men's Night Out. (These are by no means a complete list of activities.) Each of these

gives us the opportunity to "Walk in Love." By this, I mean that we support both our parish family (in-reach) and those in the community (outreach). We listen sympathetically to problems members of our parish family may be experiencing while rejoicing in any good fortune that may come their way and we help those in the community who need our support without judgment.

Now to discuss the third "T", Treasure. Imagine how much harder it would be to carry out offering our gifts of time and talent without the physical structure of St. Michael's Church and space for our clergy and staff. This is why yearly, with occasional reminders and special requests, we ask for your financial support. We cover salaries for paid staff members and clergy, building and grounds maintenance, musicians, and miscellaneous expenses for office supplies, communications, and liturgical needs such as wafers and wine that are intrinsic to our worship service.

One additional thought about our church's physical presence. It provides us a common place for nourishing our spiritual growth. I appreciate hearing our clergy explaining / interpreting scripture in such a way that I can relate to it. Also, having sung in church choirs all my adult life, I appreciate our music that allows me to transcend the physical limitations of my earthly body as I seek to understand my purpose and being. Having a corporate service creates that wonderful environment.

You will soon receive a Pledge form in the mail or you may pick one up at church. Please consider prayerfully, and as you are able, make a financial commitment to St. Michael's so that we can continue to "Walk in Love" and grow spiritually.

In God's Peace, David Zittel, Senior Warden

As your financial secretary, I see you, the breath of this church, give what you can to support the church, our ministries, pay our bills, help the homeless, support our priest, have celebrations, come together in grief and joy. Because of your generosity this past year, we've been able to pay for AC repair this summer, to fix a water pump, and to install new carpet in the office. All from your donations, your pledges, your giving. Laundry Love receives donations monthly and quarterly so we can continue the good works of this ministry. Did you know it takes \$900 each time we sponsor a Laundry Love day?

I love St. Michael's. I feel that like the little train that could, that we are the little church that does so much with so little. My husband Don commented that he had never seen a church do as much as we do. I beamed with pride. *We do* do a lot. It seems no matter what we need it comes through. Faith? Absolutely. Trust? Yes. Caring and compassion? Our cup runneth over.

Be it a couple dollars in the plate, your weekly, monthly pledges and offerings, your help in our ministries, it is *you* who are the strength of this church.

You , you , you...are the heart and soul of St, Michael's. We cannot do what we do without your love and support.

I hope you prayerfully consider what you can do in 2025 for the love and ministry of St. Michael's.

What you pledge now will determine our budget for 2025. Any money given, not deemed a pledge is considered plate or extra offerings and is not a part of the budget. Your commitment is important. Please consider changing your offerings to a pledge. The pledge police will not come after you if you are unable to fulfill your pledge.

Debi Kelley, Financial Secretary

**Thank you to everyone who made our Homecoming Weekend such a special time.**

With a special thank you to Evelyn Bibens who made it all happen!



Archdeacon Rev. Robert Bibens, The Rev. Joseph Farber,  
The Rt. Rev. Wallis Ohl, The Rev. Rick Burris

# OCTOBER EVENTS

**October 4-5**

**The 87<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal  
Diocese of Oklahoma**

**October 6**

**Worship Committee Meeting**

**October 6 1:00 p.m.**

**Book Discussion Group**

The Book Discussion Group will read "*Small World*" by Jonathan Evison; a grand adventure that explores the American experiment in its most human and intimate aspects. Contact: Carol Wittmer

**October 11 7:00 p.m.**

**WILD MEN'S NIGHT OUT**



St. Michael's men will meet for an evening of fellowship and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 11<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 as we need an accurate count for our steak order by October 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact: Peter Rodrigues.

**October 12 9:00 a.m.**

**Outreach Meeting**

**October 17 5:00 p.m.**

**Care-A-Van Meals Prep for the Unhoused**

We continue to provide a meal for 50 of our unhoused, once a month. We do need more people willing to provide for this ministry. It is the same small group who lovingly provide this each month.

If you are interested, please look at the sign-up sheet and sign wherever you can help, be it a side dish, snacks, water, dessert or the main dish. No one has signed up for December yet, so there is room. Please join us in this simple, once a month ministry. Contact: Debi Kelley

**October 18 5:30 p.m.**

**Saucy Sisters**

October's Saucy Sisters will be enchiladas provided by Amy Gardner. We meet at 5:30 and dinner is served at 6:00. Suggested donation is \$10, but first time is free. Please sign-up if you plan to attend. Contact: Amy Gardner.

**October 20**

**Vestry Meeting**

Everyone is welcome to attend Vestry meetings as visitors. If you are considering serving on the Vestry in the future, come visit!

**October 20 2:00 p.m.**

**Crop Walk at Ruby Grant Park**

You can help fight hunger locally and globally by participating in the 41<sup>th</sup> annual Cleveland County CROP Walk to Stop Hunger. Join our team of walkers or donate to our team at our St. Michael's team page at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/st-michaels-walkers-in-the-way-of-love> You can also register or donate using sponsor envelopes at the CROP Walk table in the gathering hall each Sunday preceding the event. Walkers who raise \$100 or more will receive a free CROP Walk T-shirt.

More details are available on the Crop Walk display table. Contact: Deacon Laura

**October 22**

**Budget Meeting 9:00 a.m. via Zoom**

**October 24 -28**

Nancy will be out of the office.

**October 26 Book Sale**

Remember to donate when you clean out books! Place them under the table in the choir room. Book sale proceeds are used to meet or enhance any special needs at St. Michael's. Set up will begin on Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour and continue all week. Public Sale will be the 26<sup>th</sup> and Bag Sale on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact: Amy Gardner

**October 27**

**Discretionary Fund Offering Sunday**



## Other Ministries & News

### Altar Guild

Thank you to everyone currently serving on the Altar Guild – your work is appreciated!

### BC Clark - Giving to a Community of Faith

The BC Clark continues the tradition of their church coupon program to give back to the community. When you make a purchase at any BC Clark location, ask the salesperson to give you a “Church Coupon” and 3% of your purchase price will go to the church of your choice. (St. Michael’s of course) The donations are designated to support the women’s ministry of the church.

### Bible Study

The study of the Old Testament continues every Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### Blessing Bags

We have Blessing bags for you to share with those in need. When you see a neighbor who appears to be needy, give them one of our blessing bags. Bags contain various items such as water, insect repellent bracelet, crackers, lip balm, body wipes, and other items who may be of comfort. This ministry was initiated by Saucy Sisters.

### Book Discussion Group

See October 6<sup>th</sup> above.

### Budget Committee

Our Budget Committee will meet on **Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom** with Jaci Williams as host. We will review our current finances and begin planning next year's budget.  
Contact: Amy Gardner

### Care Team

When a parishioner has a need, our Care Team will provide. Sign up to become part of the Care Team. You won't need to do something every time. Usually, an email goes out requesting what is needed and if you can help, you simply email back. If you are willing to help co-chair this group please let Debi know. Contact: Debi Kelley

### Choir

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

### Choir Room

Work continues in the choir room. We are now renting part of the room to the Norman Community Choral Society to house their music library.

### Churches Caring for Creation

Thank you for continuing to donate clean foam. Densifying is 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

### Crafters

Crafters meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30. For the past several years, we have provided scarves and hats for our unhoused neighbors, made baby blankets to be given at hospitals, decorated paper sacks for Laundry Love, made prayers shawls, items for Christmas at Sea, and made other items which support ministries at St. Michael’s. We have a closet full of yarn, so choose your project! Please join us!  
Contact: Amy Gardner

### Discretionary Fund

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.

### Flowers and Candles

We would like more people to sign up for flowers and candles for the altar on Sundays. Simply sign your name, what you would like them to be in honor of and we will send you an invoice after that Sunday. Flowers are \$45 and Candles are \$10. Contact: Debi Kelley

### Thanksgiving Meals

This year, we will provide 45 Thanksgiving Meals through the Aging Service of Cleveland County. We need donations to provide a healthy and delicious meal for our neighbors. Contact: Amy Gardner or Patrick Moore.

## Laundry Love

Our next day to sponsor will be in 2025. 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 and 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)

## Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

Judy Phillips is our representative on the board of the Norman Coalition for Refugee Support. Volunteers are always needed for regular transportation, and to act as liaisons with families. Contact Judy Phillips

## Outreach

Outreach will meet on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Please join us if you are interested. Contact: Amy Gardner

## Prayer Chain and Prayer List

A small group of members of St. Michael's are committed to praying daily for concerns. Our Prayer Chain is confidential (not published). Please bring concerns to this group. If you feel called to this ministry or have a prayer request, contact David Sims. The Prayer List is a public list of those in need published in the Sunday service bulletin. Contact: Nancy Littlejohn

We celebrated Brandt & Susie Cassidy on their last Sunday at St. Michael's.



## Sharon's Wagon

Sharon's Wagon is in honor and memory of Sharon Vaz who had great compassion for those in need of support. We fill her wagon with items which go to others in our community. In October we will collect supplies for Care-a-Vans to help our unhoused neighbors prepare for colder weather. Items needed are Hot Hands, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and candy. We will pack 50 bags. Any ideas for additional items are appreciated.

We will put items in bags to be distributed when we prepare our meal in November. Contact: Amy Gardner

## Ushers and Greeters are needed.

We need more volunteers to greet on Sunday mornings. Let's give great "welcomes" to everyone coming in the door. Please sign up to serve as a greeter or an usher. Specific tasks for these positions are available on the sign-up counter. Contact: Santa Velez.

## St. Michael's Garden

Thank you to Basha Hartley and *everyone* who worked in the garden in September! It looks lovely.

## St. Michael's Website

Every time you take a photo at St. Michael's, please send it to Katie Blair or Tim Phillips for our website. 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.

# October Days to Remember

## Birthdays

10/1 David Zittel  
10/2 Carol Wittmer  
10/7 Suzanne Witzke  
10/9 LaVetta Dent  
10/13 Jonathan Calhoun  
10/14 Rachel Armstrong  
10/21 The Rt. Rev. Wallis Ohl  
10/24 Kenton Waters  
10/27 Neal Hunt  
10/31 Keith Giles

## Anniversaries

10/17/1975 Robert and La Crisa Green  
10/25/2019 Don and Debi Kelley  
10/30/1971 John and Basha Hartley

## On the anniversary of their death



10/02/1984 Helen Hill  
10/02/2000 Richard Schisser  
10/03/1991 Virginia Dikeman  
10/05/1988 Virginia Farmer  
10/06/2020 Albert Schwarzkopf  
10/08/2003 Thomas Barnes  
10/11/2018 Emogene Huslig  
10/12/1993 Lyman Paden  
10/12/2001 Derik Scroggins  
10/15/1979 Catherine Collier  
10/15/2011 Mary Ruth Bussey  
10/16/1985 Roberta Korb  
10/17/1995 Gene Walker  
10/24/1981 Gladys Shellabarger  
10/25/1977 Florence Howes  
10/26/2006 Veta Brown  
10/28/1996 Aron Griggs  
10/29/2012 Jeanne Zerboni  
10/31/2022 Cathy Jo Cassidy

## Handy Information

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

Father Joseph Farber [rector@stmichaelsnorman.org](mailto:rector@stmichaelsnorman.org) 405-321-8951 or 405-561-1414

Mother Ann Murray, Associate Priest [deaconann18@gmail.com](mailto:deaconann18@gmail.com) 405-919-8533

Deacon Laura Blazek [laurablazek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurablazek@sbcglobal.net) 405-639-0300

Parish Musician Jon Roberts [dachs.mirabilis@icloud.com](mailto:dachs.mirabilis@icloud.com) 405-850-5252

Peter Rodrigues, Senior Warden [studiepete@gmail.com](mailto:studiepete@gmail.com) 405-651-7717

Tina Mahle, Junior Warden [Tina.mahle@alumni.ou.edu](mailto:Tina.mahle@alumni.ou.edu) 405-517-5142

Nancy Littlejohn, Parish Administrator [administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org) 405-321-8951 or  
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Debi Kelley, Financial Secretary, [treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org](mailto:treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org) 405-321-8951 or [d3bi.kelley@gmail.com](mailto:d3bi.kelley@gmail.com)  
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## Your Vestry

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