



Mike's Missal



April 2025

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 720326

Norman, OK 73070

administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org

www.stmichaelsnorman.org

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

Live on YOUTUBE at 11:00

From Father Joseph Farber

Discernment

"[C]onscience has the following characteristic: the more you listen and obey it, the more sensitive it becomes and the greater its capacity to reveal more truth. The more you ignore it, and the more you are indifferent to it, the coarser it becomes and the greater its tendency to distort reality."

- Kyriakos Markides, *Inner River, A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Christian Spirituality*, p. 56, 2012 Crown Publishing Group

Discernment is the work of conscience. That brownie on the counter would sure be pleasant. But it is also full of calories that I don't need and sugar that will make me crash. My conscience helps me discern the difference between what I desire and what is desirable.

Discernment is, first and foremost, learning to distinguish between what we selfishly desire, and what, for the good of all, is desirable. Even spiritual gifts require discernment lest they cause damage. Paul enumerates several spiritual gifts in Galatians: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The greatest of all gifts, he tells the Corinthians, is love. But even love, exercised without discernment, can be perverted and do great evil in the world. It is important not only to love, but to love well and with purpose.

The heart and soul of true righteousness is right relationship. Our relationships make us what and who we are. The relationships which bring out the best in us are relationships of love. But to use it well even love requires discernment; it requires the constant application of conscience.

Jesus Christ set us free from trying to achieve righteousness, right relationship, by following the law. Instead, Jesus simply commands, "Love God. Love one another." Paul assures the Corinthians our relationships to one another and to God's creation are not subject to the law. But Christians are called to a higher standard in how we govern ourselves. For us, the question is never merely whether something is legal, the question is always, "What is helpful?" This question applies not only to what we do, but also to what we don't do.

That question requires us to look beyond ourselves to discern the needs of others, and beyond what is desired to discern what is desirable. This is the work of conscience which perfects the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and brings us closer to God.

From Senior Warden, David Zittel

Dear Parish Family,

Prayer List: Our prayer list for St. Michael's seems to be growing weekly. Please pray for those on the prayer list that they may be returned to health. It may be several weeks before they are healed enough to be able to return. I will miss seeing these stalwarts in the pews and chatting with them after or before services. Please pray also for strength for the caregivers. As for me, I am doing well enough, but I do find my days spent being more of a Martha than a Mary, and I tire easily.

Discernment and vitality: Last year, as I noted a previous missal, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Poulson Reed visited us and discussed with us the process of discernment. Although we think of our physical building as being hard-to-see, we are well-placed to appeal to many. Being adjacent to state highway 9 and close to I-35, those coming in from rural areas have easy access. We are also near the University of Oklahoma and can appeal to college students looking for a family church. Also, we are in or near neighborhoods with small children, both north and south of Highway 9. I believe, by using our large open area for outdoor events and by advertising through social media, we can draw in these families. Lastly, by being accepting of the LGBTQ+ community, we can serve these folks as well. As to the question of discernment, that is, who we are called to serve, I think the answer is EVERYONE – our parish is called to be a parish of “INCLUSIVITY.”

In March this year, the Rev. Canon Stephen Carlsen, Canon for Congregational Vitality, visited us. We had a good turnout for our 11:00 am service and he was pleased with our vitality. We also held our annual vestry retreat and discussed many topics, one of which was how to grow the church. To that end, Fr. Joseph suggested that we start up Godly Play to encourage families with young children to join our parish family. The Godly Play, designed for ages 3 to 11, features small dolls for reenacting various biblical stories tied to the lessons of the day. Godly Play would take place during first part of the service and the children would rejoin at some time later, probably at the exchange of peace. We need at least two adults to lead it. So far James Cassidy has expressed an interest in helping. For my part, I would like us to start a youth group (preteen through high school) that could meet at times other than Sunday mornings.

Another topic of discussion was that our 50th anniversary as a parish is coming up this year. I thought it might be nice to call it a Jubilee year and to that end finish paying back a loan to ourselves from one of our endowments. Technically, a Jubilee year in Jewish tradition was a year of loan forgiveness and occurred every 49 years (7x7). Unfortunately, we can't forgive ourselves our endowment loan debt. However, due to generous gifts from the estate of Anne Million and some of our parishioners, we have reduced the amount owed to about \$13,000. In the coming months, the vestry will be planning festivities for our 50th anniversary and also asking for small donations from you, as you are able, to help us achieve paying off the loan. For my part, I will try to create a living graph to show our progress.

Yours in Christ, David Zittel, Sr. Warden

APRIL EVENTS

See pages 5 & 6 for Complete Easter Schedule & Activities

April 5 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.
OU Big Event Work Day

April 11 7:00 p.m. Wild Men's Night Out

April 12 9:00 a.m. Garden Clean Up Day
10:00 a.m. Palm Cross Making

April 13 1:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group
See below for details

April 17 5:00 p.m.
Care-A-Van Meals Prep for the Unhoused

April 25 5:30 p.m. Saucy Sisters Fellowship

April 26 Laundry Love

MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

Altar Guild

Kenton Waters is our new Altar Guild Coordinator. If you are interested in helping this ministry, please contact the church office.

Bible Study

Our reading of the books of the Bible together continues from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. Come read study and discuss with us.

Big Event

Students from OU will be here on Saturday, April 5th to serve our facility as part of the Big Event. Contact: Tina Mahle.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group has moved to the second Sunday of each month. This month's book is *Trust* by Hernan Diaz, the recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction alongside Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. Contact: Carol Wittmer

Book Sale

We continuously collect items for future book sales. Please place items under the table in the choir room.

Budget & Finance Committee

Our next meeting will be in June. Contact: Amy Gardner

Care-a-Vans Meal Prep

We are signed up for all of 2025. You can sign up for anything for the year at any time. Make sure to leave your email address for a reminder. If you take the

main course you may be reimbursed up to \$50. Contact: Debi Kelley

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 let Debi or Nancy know. If you would like to join the Care Team, there is a sign-up sheet 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 at the Norman West Public Library on April 19. Densifying on Univ Lutheran parking lot takes place during the week when the weather allows. Call Doug Bowden at 405-831-9951 to volunteer to densify. Remember to bring your CLEAN foam to our styro-station. Contact: Tina Mahle, Green Team

Crafters

Our crafters meet at 6:30 p.m. every Monday. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other crafts and join the fellowship. We have a good supply of yarn for you to use. Contact: Amy Gardner

Directories

2025 Directories are available on the front counter. Please send any contact changes to the office.

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 donating any time by writing "Discretionary Fund" on a check. These funds are used to address unexpected needs.

Easter Lilies and Candles

Envelopes are out for you for donations for Easter Lilies. Simply sign your name, who or what you are honoring, and we will send you an invoice after that Sunday.

Garden Clean Up day

Volunteers are needed to get St. Michael's garden ready for Spring! Time to prune, rake, and mulch! Bring gloves and garden tools if you have them, pruners, rakes and clippers. Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Basha Hartley

Greeter, Usher and Oblationer Team

Thank you to everyone who serves in these important positions. The schedule is in every Tuesday's email and a paper copy is on the counter. Contact: Santa Velez

Laundry Love

We will sponsor Laundry Love on Saturday, April 26th from 8:30-noon, so start saving your quarters now! In addition to providing funds for laundry, donations of detergent, dryer sheets, and bleach are always welcome. We serve lunch to all who would like to eat. Sign up to help in the ingathering space. Contact: Amy Gardner

Lectio Divina

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 read a short passage more than once and the 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. Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. in the Library Contact: The Rt. Rev. Wallis Ohl

Norman Pride Festival and Parade

The festival this year is on Saturday May 3rd from noon to 10:00 p.m. in Andrew's Park and the parade

is at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 4th in downtown Norman. Sign-up sheets will be on the counter to pack bread, work at the booth, and walk in the parade. **Pride Bread Baking** - Our goal is to make at least 300 mini-loaves of bread that we'll give away at these events. We have a "bread baking" guideline sheet for anyone willing to bake mini loaves. Contact: Deacon Laura Blazek

Outreach Committee

The next Outreach Meeting will be on May 31st. All are welcome to attend. Contact: Amy Gardner

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 (not published). Please bring concerns to this group or if you feel called to this ministry. Contact: David Sims

Saucy Sisters

Saucy Sisters will enjoy our women's fellowship on Friday April 25th at the home of Evelyn Bibens with special guest, Susie Cassidy! Please sign up!

Sharon's Wagon

In April Sharon's Wagon will collect feminine hygiene products. Contact: Amy Gardner.

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!

Special Services Team

We have a team to help at special services such as weddings or funerals. We have a detailed procedures manual. If we have a large enough team it won't fall on everyone all the time. This is an important ministry in the life of St. Michael's. Contact Nancy Littlejohn or Debi Kelley.

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

Wild Men's Night Out

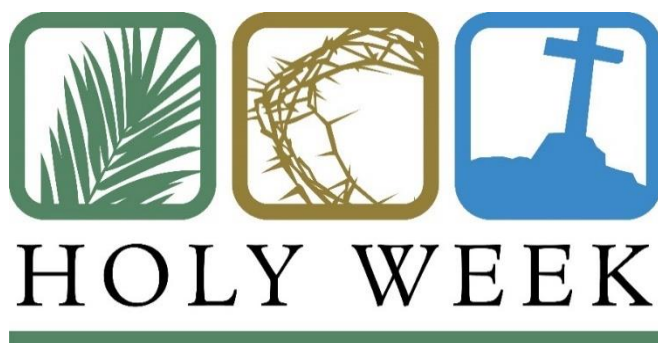
On Friday, April 11, 2025, we'll have the usual excellent charcoal-grilled steak, salad and baked potatoes, complete the menu with many choices of ales and specialty brewed beverages. All for only \$20.00! All men of Saint Michael's, and their guests are welcome. Please sign up before April 9. Contact: Peter Rodrigues

Yoga Class

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

Lenten Discipline - Alms Giving

One of the three Lenten disciplines is alms giving. This is the practice of giving money, goods, and time to those in need. We have many opportunities at St. Michael's for you to donate goods and your time. Lent is a great time to make a commitment to participate in one of our many ministries. Another way to participate is to use one of our Lent Offering Boxes/Cards/Cans to make a daily offering of money. You can make yourself a promise to add a set amount every day during Lent or put in change that is just rolling around in your wallet. All money collected in the Lent Offering Boxes is to fund our Outreach Ministries. Please return your Lenten Offering Boxes at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday.



Saturday, April 12 10:00 a.m. Palm Cross making

Sunday, April 13 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with Overnight Vigil

Friday, April 18 Good Friday

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
11:15 a.m. Stations of the Cross
12:00 Noon Eucharist
6:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. Eucharist

Saturday, April 19 8:06 p.m. Easter Vigil

Easter Vigil Celebration Reception following

Sunday, April 20 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

Preparations for Holy Week and Easter Season

Contact: Deacon Laura

Palm Cross Making Event

Please join us in the gathering hall on Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. to make Palm crosses for people to wear on Palm Sunday. We will teach you how to make them! Bonus, a new skill for your resume!! The goal is to make 80 which should 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, April 6th or to the church office no later than Monday, April 7th.

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!

Holy Week at Home

Coloring Stations of the Cross, Holy Week coloring wheel, and Station of the Cross at home booklets are available.

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, April 19th. Please sign up to bring some food to share. Contact Deacon Laura if you are willing to help set up and clean up.

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 11:00 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 6th graders. It begins after the service, everyone has had a chance to eat, the eggs are "hid", and baskets are ready. An announcement will be made once the hunt is ready to begin. Kids are encouraged to bring their own basket, but we will have baskets available to use. The plastic eggs are filled with a variety of candy and some with small toys. A list of ingredients will be posted on the day of the hunt in case of food allergies. The hunt will take place regardless of weather, outside or inside. Announcements will be made at the service as to location of the hunt.

Easter Sunday Celebration Coffee Hour

We will continue the Easter Vigil celebration into Easter Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets are out for bringing food to add to the celebration "brunch". Please consider bringing something to share with our St. Mike's community and visitors.

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

Deacon Laura is in charge of all 3 events in addition serving at the altar, so help is needed! For the flowering of cross, people are needed to help prep the flowers to be placed into the cross, clean up flower mess, and so on. For the Easter Egg Hunt people are needed to help "hide the eggs", supervise the hunt, and check for missed eggs after the kids are done collecting eggs. For the celebration coffee hour, people are needed to help put out the food and clean up after. Please consider volunteering to help as many hands make light work. Sign-up sheets are out.

April Days to Remember

Birthdays

4/1 Kate Kelly
4/3 Aziza Salles
4/8 Sandy Newton
4/12 Nelson Dent
4/17 Michelle Linnemann
4/18 Adam Falato
4/18 Judy Kellogg
4/19 Santa Velez
4/25 Sylvia Crucet
4/25 Savannah Dillard
4/29 Joshua Blazek
4/30 Laura Blazek

Anniversaries

4/22/2011 Keith & Jeanne Giles

On the anniversary of their death



4/4/2018 Julianne Parker
4/9/1996 Sylvia Adair
4/10/1980 Walter Zittel
4/12/1985 Richard Wallis
4/19/1995 Betsy McGonnell
4/26/1985 Dwight Morgan
4/10/1997 Albert Harrington
4/3/2000 Esther Mayfield
4/17/2000 Perry Dean
4/5/2008 Richard Schisser Jr.
4/24/2010 Jean Baker
4/27/2012 Ruth Roberts
4/12/2015 Don Taylor
4/23/2015 Keith Catto
4/4/2016 Francesca Smith
4/7/2017 Ted Sandridge
4/20/2019 John Stiehler
4/5/2021 Jeffrey Baldwin

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Handy Information

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

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

Organist-Choirmaster Jon Roberts dachs.mirabilis@icloud.com 405-850-5252

David Zittel, Senior Warden david12330@gmail.com 405-834-8764

Josh Yarbrough, Junior Warden jry246@gmail.com 405.226.5187

Nancy Littlejohn, Parish Administrator administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org 405-321-8951 or
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Debi Kelley, Financial Secretary, treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org 405-321-8951 or d3bi.kelley@gmail.com 405-306-3450

St. Michael's 2025 Vestry

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