



# Mike's Missal



September 2022

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 720326

Norman, OK 73070

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[www.stmichaelsnorman.org](http://www.stmichaelsnorman.org)

Sunday Service is at 10:00 A.M.

Live on YOUTUBE

## Stewardship Committee

This September, you will see from the St. Mike's Social Media and Stewardship Committees, St. Michael's "Devotionals" to help us prepare for this year's Stewardship Pledge drive. We praise God for our blessings and it is of great importance that each of us prayerfully considers our offerings to the 2023 Pledge Drive.

Our thanks to the members of St. Michael's who wrote devotions for the 2021-22 Stewardship Campaign and may the words of God, along with the thoughts and prayers of your friends at St. Michael's, encourage your gifts this pledge season.



**Stewardship**  
a way of life

Also, what is new this year, is a wonderful quote from the First Americans Museum where several of St. Michael's members visited this summer. A statement of "Gratitude" touched our hearts. We wanted to share with you.

**Gratitude as a Gift** *"It's common for First Americans to express gratitude at gatherings. Gratitude shows our respect and affection for others. It also represents humility and a willingness to listen with an open mind."*

2022 St. Michael's Stewardship Committee

## From the Senior Warden

For over three months one of your vestry's major missions has been that of filling our empty rector's office. Toward that end, we have been immersed in The Search Process in the Diocese of Oklahoma.

A short while ago "an unexpected and unique opportunity presented itself, whereas a potential candidate has come forward, whose life circumstances may well fit the part-time rector situation we have at St. Michaels." It was, however, necessary that we maintain a strict level of confidentiality.

We recently asked The Rev. Canon Eric Cooter, our guide and mentor in these processes, how we might be able to share information about our pre-search process without affecting the need for confidentiality.

The following is what Canon Eric replied.

*Information suggestions you can share with the congregation:*

1. *The vestry is continuing to work on the search process. The survey is complete, and we are compiling the information.*
2. *We are all aware that our financial situation in the parish is such that we are unable to call and sustain a full-time Rector, and our search process is directed toward a "Less than Full Time" priest to serve St. Michael's. Part-time searches have their*

*own unique set of challenges, and often require the right priest with a unique and particular life situation that affords them the opportunity to accept a part-time call.*

*3. As we entered the early stages of the search process (survey development), an unexpected and unique opportunity has presented itself, whereas a potential candidate has come forward, whose life circumstances may well fit the part-time rector situation we have at St. Michaels. Additionally, this situation may be best suited for a Priest-in-Charge call consideration rather than an immediate Rector call. If the candidate is a good fit for the St. Michael's, and if the vestry within its canonical authority wishes to call the priest (with Bishop's consent of course), the priest could serve as Priest-in-Charge for a time of mutual discernment, evaluation, and consideration. A Priest-in-Charge has the same authority, responsibilities, and duties as a Rector but serves without tenure and for a specific period of time (usually at least 3 years). If after 12-18 months of effective, prayerful, and deliberate discernment, and if the priest, vestry, and Bishop concur, the vestry can request The Bishop's consent to call the priest as Rector. If after that period the discernment reveals that the call is not a match, two of the three parties in agreement can move to dissolve the relationship. This form of call is one used most often in other dioceses, where a full, lengthy search would delay a call of a priest, or when special circumstances warrant an alternative process.*

*4. The vestry has been introduced to a potential candidate (whose identity must remain confidential at this time), and there is a plan to begin initial conversations to assess whether the candidate is a potential match.*

*The Rev. Canon Eric S. Cooter  
Canon to the Ordinary  
Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma*

There is much work to be done. May God continue to guide Saint Michael's.

Peter Rodrigues, Senior Warden

### **Our WHY? HOW? WHAT?**

**WHY?** “At St. Michael’s, we are the voice of Christ in the modern world. We hold to the traditions of the Episcopal Church, which welcomes all who desire to know the love of God in Christ, regardless of age, social status, gender identity, race, or cultural heritage, because we are all made in the image of God. We do this through worship centered on the Word of God as found in the Bible, which promises hope, restoration, and reconciliation. We are committed to reaching out to those in the community who are marginalized by meeting their immediate needs through social ministry. We support families and understand the difficulty of finding a church that recognizes personal needs and limitations. Above all, at St. Michael’s we care for others and seek to restore all people to unity with God and one another.

**HOW?** “At St. Michael’s we live and share the love of Christ.”

**WHAT?** is lived out through our commitment to 1) the homeless and hungry, 2) children’s services, and 3) the environment. We support these initiatives primarily through our outreach ministries.

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### **Notes from Nancy and Rachel**

The office will be closed on Monday, September 4 for Labor Day.

There are still open spaces for altar flowers and Aumbry candles. Consider these opportunities for remembrance and honor.

Thanks for your support of the ECW’s Italian Luncheon to support feminine hygiene products for our Outreach partners. In addition to collecting loads of products, with your generosity, we collected over \$400 to purchase items for distribution. We can’t close this without also thanking the wonderful chefs of St. Michael’s for the delicious spread. As always, we had a great variety of dishes, salads, bread, and desserts!

Nancy Littlejohn, Parish Administrator

Rachel Armstrong, Financial Secretary

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

### Worship Committee September 7

The Worship Committee will meet Wednesday, September 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the library. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about worship at St. Michael's, please let one of the committee members know so that they can bring it before the committee.

### Wild Men September 9



St. Michael's men will meet for an evening of fellowship and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 9th.

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. As always, first time participants and first-time guests can enjoy all this for FREE. Please sign-up as we need an accurate count for our steak order by September 6. Contact: Brandt Cassidy.

### ECW Luncheon Meeting September 10

We will start with the Dress a Girl workshop at 9:00 a.m. (arrive early to set up machines) on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> with a meeting and lunch at 11:00. If you are not interested in helping with the workshop, please come just for the meeting and lunch. We will continue the workshop following lunch. Lunch is a light potluck. Dessert will be provided.

We will discuss plans for the end of the year. It is also time to be considering leading ECW in 2023. It is a team effort, not one person, so please pray if this might be a ministry for you. Everyone is welcome!

### Cursillo September 10

Oklahoma Episcopal Cursillo is holding a re-organizational meeting at 10:30 a.m. on September 10th at St. Crispin's Conference Center. All Cursillistas are invited. Agenda information: Karen Askew 918-329-0605. More Information: Allen Mason 918-916-1793. If you are interested in going and car-pooling, contact Amy Gardner.

### Christian Formation for Children/Youth Discernment September 11

We will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 11th to begin a discussion about children/youth Christian formation at St. Michael's. This meeting is open to anyone who wants to help St. Michael's discern how God is calling us to help our children/youth discover more about their faith and ways to engage them in church. We won't solve all the problems in just one meeting, but all journeys begin with a single step. Please contact Deacon Laura if you are interested in walking this discernment journey (or you can just show up at the meeting) or if you have any questions.

### Meal Prep September 14 For Norman Social Injustice League.

Our next meal prep will be at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14. For the past several months a very small group of parishioners has donated time and food to make 40 meals for the unhoused. We would like to do more but we can only do it with your help. The league was started a couple years by some Norman residents who were concerned about our unhoused population. Recently a wooded area they lived in was shut down, so they are now scattered throughout Norman. A vote was taken at City Council to build low-income housing but it failed. It will come up again. Because our friends are now more scattered about town, the number of stops to deliver the meals have increased dramatically. One of the drivers logged over 30 miles while delivering.

Not everyone is homeless by choice, and this is our opportunity to reach out more.

Meals are provided Monday through Thursday. There are many times no one has volunteered so they go without. Wouldn't it be great if St. Michaels could do this twice a month? You don't even need to be part of putting the meals together at church, just donate a meal and we will do the rest. All food is prepared at home then brought to church to be boxed up. There will be a signup sheet in the ingathering asking if you are willing to provide a part of a meal for 40 or two can do 20 each.

When we did the survey this year, one of the top outreach concerns was the homeless. This is your opportunity to help either financially (make donation to Outreach) or by providing food. We can do this together St. Mikes!! Contact: Debi Kelley.



## Saucy Sisters September 16

Saucy Sisters will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will be grilled salmon and sides. The cost is \$10, but the first time is free. Sign-up is in the In-gathering Space. Contact: Amy Gardner.

## Vestry Meeting September 18

The Vestry will meet in the Education Building following the service on Sunday September 18.



## Wise Women September 24

Wise Women will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 24th at Denny's Restaurant 500 Ed Noble Pkwy. Contact: Santa Velez

## Michaelmas September 25

Join us for The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

## First Annual Naucratius Fishing Retreat October 21-23rd.

Join St. Paul's Cathedral, Mother Sarah E. Smith and the Guild of St. Naucratius for this family friendly event at St. Crispin's Conference Center to help harvest fish in the ponds to manage the habitat and learn all about creation care while enjoying God's abundance! The Naucratius leadership team and Game Wardens from the Oklahoma Wildlife Department will be present to help teach folks how to fish, harvest and cook our game. We will also enjoy nightly campfire compline, Sunday Eucharist and a fish fry!

Contact St. Crispin's for more information and/or to register. 405-382-1619

## Other Ministries

### Book Sale

We are currently collecting books for the next book sale. Place them under the table in the choir room. Contact: Amy Gardner

### Care Team

Care team members have been providing meals, rides, and visits with several parishioners this year. We thank you all for your continued ministry. We'd like to have a meeting to discuss where we can go with the Care Team, maybe entwine with Pastoral Care. We are stronger in numbers, as we all have families and things in our own lives. There is a sign-up sheet in the ingathering space. We will take signups through Labor Day, then plan a meeting. Contact: Debi Kelley.

### Churches Caring for Creation

The public is invited to recycle foodservice and packaging foam at University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Entry is from the parking lot behind the church on College St.

#### Densifying events:

9/10	10:00 – noon	Newcastle Public Library
9/10	1:30 – 3:30	Blanchard Public Library
9/17	10:00 – noon	Shawnee Public Library

CC4C is a non-profit group that will gladly accept tax-deductible donations to fund this project. Contacts: Tina Mahle or Cathy Bowden at University Lutheran.

### Discretionary Fund

The last Sunday of each month all offering plate cash goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. You may also write a check with a note. It is used to address unexpected needs.

### Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

School has started and the children are back in school. Our families still struggle to make it. We saw on the news that the government is going to make it faster for them to get their visas, so they don't face deportation after being here a year (November). They would be executed if returned to their countries.

Plans are being made for next year. How many families can we bring in 2023? What did we learn from the last year?

Please continue to support The Norman Coalition for Refugee Support. NCRS has received their non-profit status. You can still make donations through St. Michael's or you can visit the website [www.nc4rs.org](http://www.nc4rs.org) and donate through there. You can also find items to

donate through our Amazon Custom Gift List. Dental work continues to be one of the major costs for NCRS in the support of our families. Contact: Debi Kelley

## **Outreach Report**

At its August meeting the Outreach Committee agreed to make donations to the following community organizations:

Norman Coalition for Refugee Services  
Norman Care-A-Vans  
Food and Shelter

In addition, we registered St. Michael's for the annual Cleveland County CROP walk (October 16) and supported St. Michael's ECW Red Tent Event (menstrual products).

On August 27, we held a rummage sale to raise funds for further Outreach activities. Part of the proceeds will go to purchasing toys for the Norman Community Christmas Dinner. We continue to support The Social Injustice League of Norman by preparing food for 40 of our unhoused neighbors on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Sharon's Wagon is collecting laundry products and quarters for Laundry Love. St. Michael's will be sponsoring Laundry Love in November—preparing and distributing 100 lunches and providing free laundry for 50 families.

Thank you for living and sharing the love of Christ through our community projects.

## **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 contact Amy Gardner to bring concerns to this group. Also, please contact Amy if you feel called to this ministry.

## **Sharon's Wagon**

Thank you for all the feminine hygiene products donated in August. They are very much appreciated.

Our September recipient will be Laundry Love. They need laundry detergent (regular and hypo-allergenic), dryer sheets, and washer sanitizer. Contact: Amy Gardner.

## **From St. Mike's Webmaster**

As the webmaster I try to go through the site once a month and see what needs to be updated. If you have a ministry, especially one that has specific dates, please check it monthly and send me changes. For many people our website is their first look at St. Michael's. I don't know about you, but I hate to land a site with outdated information. It tells me that whoever owns the site does not care about keeping it up to date.

As we search for a new priest, let's make a good impression with our website. That can only be done if you, with your ministry, will check and send me updates. All ministries have either a full page or a section of a page. You are welcome to a full page if you send me content.

We can also use pictures of ministry events and people pictures are wonderful. Contact: Debi Kelley

## **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 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.

Peter Rodrigues (Senior Warden) [studiepete@gmail.com](mailto:studiepete@gmail.com) or 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  
cell 405-924-2782

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

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

### **OTHER CONTACTS:**

Brandt Cassidy [bgcassidy@cox.net](mailto:bgcassidy@cox.net) 405-921-5772

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## **Your Vestry**

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### **September Birthdays**

9/02 Clark Morter  
9/06 Paul Wilson  
9/08 Pam Wallace  
9/08 King Price  
9/18 Paula Price  
9/20 Jaci Williams  
9/21 John Hartley  
9/24 Peter Rodrigues  
9/27 Tim Kellogg  
9/30 Tom Selvidge

### **Anniversaries**

9/04/1964 Wallis and Sheila Ohl  
9/05/1964 Howard and Suzanne Moore

### **On the anniversary of their death**

9/1/1981 Margaret Gibson  
9/1/1988 Jewel Ellsworth  
9/2/1982 Richard Kirt  
9/4/2013 Dolores Dickinson  
9/5/2019 Sarah Jean Oxenreider  
9/6/2008 Rosalie Franklin  
9/6/2010 Suzanne Attocknie  
9/13/2010 Miriam Ray  
9/14/2001 Donald Mason, Sr.  
9/15/1987 Doris Rowan  
9/19/1980 Francis Pierce  
9/27/1995 Pauline Hatch

*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.*

