



Mike's Missal



November 2024

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 720326
Norman, OK 73070

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www.stmichaelsnorman.org

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

Live on YOUTUBE at 11:00

From Father Joseph Farber

*The Same Lord Whose Property
is Always to Have Mercy*

At the very end of the book of Exodus, we find Moses and the Israelites standing on the edge of the promised land. They left slavery behind in Egypt. The entire generation of those who grew up in slavery has passed away. They stand on the brink of nationhood. There, God tells them that if they follow his commandments, they will prosper and do well in the land. If they fail to abide by God's ways, they will fail.

It remains true that our lives go better when we align them with God's will, and they become spiritually miserable when we substitute our own. What God wants of us is that we should love the Source of all that is, that we should love one another, and that we should be good stewards of the creation with which we have been entrusted. Sadly, we live in a world in which what is loving is normally rejected in favor of what we judge to be good or bad for ourselves.¹

Where love is absent, the law must control. Still, law cannot bring us to the indwelling kingdom of God. The law can set the outward conditions in which love can more easily evolve and flourish by providing an environment of stability and peace. But only love of God and others, not chiseled on tablets of stone but carved in the flesh of our hearts, can bring us and eventually the world into God's kingdom.

To be clear, Love - *agapé* - is not a feeling; it is a state of consciousness. Thoughts and feelings change from moment to moment. Love does not. Your thoughts and feelings about your spouse may change from moment to moment, depending on where you are, what you are doing, and how you slept last night. But love does not change. It is steady, unchanging, and selflessly concerned for the good of the other. That is the kind of love that God has for us. It is steady. It is always selfless. Jesus, "the firstborn of all creation," is the first human to display this kind of completely selfless love. We are invited to cultivate the same state of consciousness in ourselves, to "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."

There are lots of reasons why we do not think we are capable of aligning our wills with God's will. Sometimes, selfishness or pride prevent us. Sometimes, shame prevents us. Many of us in the Bible belt have been taught (absolutely wrongly!) that our sins are greater than God's mercy; your sins, no matter how grave, are never as important to God as you are! We may do all kinds of things, "... provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us." But God is never provoked. He is the "... same Lord Whose property is always to have mercy."

God is always ready to welcome us home. God is always inviting us to accept God's love, however undeserving, and align ourselves and our lives with love. As Peter learned in his meeting with the Roman Centurion Cornelius (Act 10), we must always be loving and do what is loving for others even when the law clearly commands otherwise. For Christians the point is not to follow the law but to

fulfill its hidden purpose of grace, to share God's love with the world and continually invite it into the kingdom.

¹ Remember the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? When we bit into the idea that we were capable of discerning good and evil?

From Senior Warden, David Zittel

Dear Parish Family,

Please plan to attend Fr. Joseph's installation service at St. Michael's as our newest Rector at 6:30 pm on Thursday, November 7th. I know it would please him greatly to have a full church. A reception follows the service.

A big Thank You to William McGovern-Fagg for installing shelving for music in the choir room. He put in many hours and is only asking for half the cost of the materials. Amy McGovern and Andy Fagg are contributing the other half of the cost of materials.

Also, if you have not yet done so, please return your pledge forms to the church soon. Even a rough estimate of what you think you can give comfortably helps the budget committee, which will be meeting late in November. You can always revise your pledge if you need to. Your generosity keeps our doors open, our staff paid and allows us to reach out to the greater community while providing space to grow spiritually.

In Christ's Love, David Zittel, Senior Warden



Stewardship Campaign for 2025

My Dear Friends of St. Michael's,

As of 10-21-24 we have 24 pledges totaling \$97,520. Last year we had 49 pledges. Many of you don't get your pledges in until the end of year so I would ask you to consider getting them in earlier. Our budget committee meets in November to plan our budget for 2025. The more pledges we have in the more accurate we can be on planning for 2025. Many of you are very generous with your giving but we can't include it in the budget without a pledge. There may be times when you can't fulfill your pledge or needed to change it. That's ok. Things happen in life. The statements you receive are not bills, just gentle reminders of what you pledged.

To help you understand what your pledges do, here are totals for 2024:

Salaries (Priest, Choir Director, Administrator and Financial Secretary)	\$115,129.00
Lawn care, summer months	\$ 7,000
Repair and maintenance	\$ 15,000
Property Insurance	\$ 22,000
Utilities	\$ 17,000
Special Events	\$ 1,494
Mutual Ministries (We send a percentage to the Diocese each month according to what we have been given)	\$ 40,000

These alone total \$217,623.00 so you can see we have a long way to go just to cover the basics.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge. Debi Kelley, Financial Secretary

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 3 after the 11:00 service
Pack gift bags for Care-a-Vans

November 3 1:00 p.m.

Book Discussion Group

The group will meet to discuss *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hill* by Robert Dugoni. Sam Hill always saw the world through different eyes. Born with red pupils, he was called “Devil Boy” or Sam “Hell” by his classmates; “God’s will” is what his mother called his ocular albinism. Her words were of little comfort, but Sam persevered, buoyed by his mother’s devout faith, his father’s practical wisdom, and his two other misfit friends. Contact: Carol Wittmer

November 6 Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Choir rehearsal will be a day early this week.

November 7

Celebration of New Ministry

We invite you to join us for a Celebration of New Ministry on Thursday, November 7th, at 6:30 p.m. for the Rev. Joseph Farber as Rector of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Reception to follow.

November 8 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, November 8th. 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 November 6th. Contact: Peter Rodrigues.

November 10

Worship Committee Meeting

November 14 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. Please join us in this simple, once a month ministry. Contact: Debi Kelley

November 15

5:30 p.m.

Saucy Sisters



Emily Ryther will provide dinner this month. 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.

November 17

Vestry Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend Vestry meetings as visitors. We will need some new vestry members in January, so if you are considering serving on the Vestry, come visit!

November 24

Discretionary Fund Offering Sunday

November 26

Budget Meeting 9:00 a.m. via Zoom **Thanksgiving Baskets Assembly** **11:00 a.m.**

November 27

Thanksgiving Service 6:30 p.m.

November 28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Office closed

Other Ministries & News

Altar Guild

Thank you to everyone currently serving on the Altar Guild – your work is appreciated! Remember to shop at and thank The Spirit Shop on Berry for their continued donation of wine.

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

Our Bible Study continues every Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.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 November 3rd above.

Book Sale Report

We raised \$654.15 at the October Book Sale. Proceeds will go toward the new shelves in Jon’s office and to Outreach. A big “Thank You” to Amy Gardner for heading this up.

Budget Committee

Our Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 26th at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom with Jaci Williams as host. We will review our pledge totals and plan 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. 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 Parish Musician Jon Roberts.

Choir Room

THANK YOU to William McGovern-Fagg and his fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, for building shelving in Jon’s office. Ten other people volunteered for the project with a total of 70 work hours between planning and implementation. This project was for William’s Summit Award for Venturing Scouts. Thanks also to Jon for all his work rearranging things. 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 donating any time by writing "Discretionary Fund" on

a check. These funds are used to address unexpected needs in our parish.

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

Greeting Cards

We need birthday cards for the office, so if you have any extra, please consider donating them. Remember, to celebrate with you we need your dates in our database.

Laundry Love

Our next day to sponsor will be in 2025, but we'll take your quarters at any time! 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 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. Contact: The Rt. Rev. Wallis Ohl

Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

We have an opportunity to bring a young Ukrainian family of three to live in Norman and need a sponsor for this family. Details are posted on the bulletin board and are linked to our website under Ministry, 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

The Outreach committee's next meeting will be in January. 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

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 November we will collect non-perishable food for food pantries in Norman. Contact: Amy Gardner

Sound System

THANK YOU to Ben Farber for working on our sound system. We now have microphones for the choir and organ to improve the streaming service.

Thanksgiving Meals

St. Mike's has been distributing Thanksgiving Baskets for over 30 years! This year 45 baskets will be assembled and given to Aging Services for distribution. We'll put the baskets together at church on Tuesday, November 26th at 11:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed! If you are interested, please text Patrick Moore. If you would like to donate to this ministry, checks should be payable to St. Michael's and in the memo write "Thanksgiving Baskets." Contact: Patrick Moore 405.659.2126.

Ushers and Greeters are needed.

We are not living up to our welcoming mission! We need volunteers to greet on Sunday mornings. It is so important to give warm "welcomes" to everyone coming in the door. And we need ushers! Please sign up ahead of time to serve as a greeter or an usher. A list of specific tasks for these positions is available on the sign-up counter. Contact: Santa Velez.

Vestry

We will need **FIVE** new vestry members to begin in **February 2025**. Please prayerfully consider serving the church by being on the vestry. Contact: Fr. Joseph

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.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, bishop of the Episcopal Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York, was elected and confirmed the 28th presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church on June 26 for a nine-year term beginning November 1. The investiture service will take place on Nov. 2 at the Chapel of Christ the Lord in The Episcopal Church Center in New York City with a prelude beginning at 10 a.m. ET and the service starting at 11 a.m. ET. The service will be livestreamed on <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/> as well as The Episcopal Church's Facebook page.

Rowe, 49, was ordained bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania in 2007 and became bishop provisional of Western New York in 2019. From 2014 to 2018, he served as

bishop provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem.

Born in Sharon, Pennsylvania, Rowe earned a bachelor's degree in history from Grove City College, a Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in organizational learning and leadership from Gannon University.

Rowe was the youngest Episcopal priest in the U.S. when he was ordained in 2000 at age 24, and he was the youngest member of the House of Bishops when he was ordained and consecrated at age 32.

Known for his research and work on organizational learning and adaptive performance in the church, Rowe serves as parliamentarian for the House of Bishops and the Episcopal Church Executive Council; chair of the Episcopal Church Building Fund; and as a member of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, and Constitution and Canons. He also serves on the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable. In 2018, he became the first bishop to serve on the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church.

Rowe is married to Carly Rowe, a Christian educator; they have a daughter named Lauren.

November Days to Remember

Birthdays

11/12 Joseph Farber	11/20 Patrick Calhoun
11/13 Ron Stiehler	11/24 Judy Mahan
11/14 Luceen Dunn	11/25 Rosemary Ford
11/14 Gary Wittmer	11/26 Avari Gray
11/16 William Warner	11/27 Carol Smith
11/17 Jim Lanphere	11/29 Delma Porter
11/18 Nancy Hancock	11/29 Deborah Price

Anniversaries

11/04/1983	Tom & Nancy Wakely
11/10/1973	Andrew & Lilly Strout
11/20/1975	David Zittel & Mary Meacham
11/20/1983	Zane & Melissa Gray

On the anniversary of their death



11/1/2016	✠Donald Pearson
11/9/1985	✠Mary Nolan
11/10/1981	✠Lois Robnett
11/11/1991	✠Marjorie De Carteret
11/18/2011	✠Cherie Zerboni Speer
11/22/2017	✠Kathryn Woltz
11/23/2019	✠Thiel Shrewsbery
11/25/1998	✠Francis Cella
11/26/2006	✠Richard Rauch
11/27/1990	✠John Luttrell
11/29/1992	✠Carroll Whitman

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.

Father Joseph Farber fr.jos.farber@gmail.com 405-321-8951 or 405-561-1414

Mother Ann Murray, Associate Priest deaconann18@gmail.com 405-919-8533

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

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

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

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

St. Michael's Vestry

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