



Mike's Missal



February 2025

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 *"Christ in Us"*

In the first Chapter of Colossians, Paul makes a fascinating statement about Jesus: "[I]n him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell." He then goes on to write that the mystery of God, hidden through the ages, has now been revealed, "which is ***Christ in you.***"

Echoing Paul, St. John writes, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us," and "to all who received him, to those who trusted in his name, he gave the authority/power to become children of God." A popular misconception about Christianity is that the purpose of accepting Christ as your Lord is to be saved from hell and eternal damnation. The real teaching of the New Testament is that accepting Christ as Lord of our hearts is about transformation, the beginning of an eternal journey towards becoming little christs, ourselves. To the extent we are successful, we step into the edges of eternal life while we are still living in this life.

A saintly soul is not so much a *righteous* soul as it is a *loving* soul; true righteousness consists of living in right relationship with others, and dwelling in love (agapé, selfless love) with one another is the end of all righteousness. The journey from sinful human to saintly human is never ending. Fortunately for us, God *always* meets us where we are to help us; Noah has issues with alcohol; David was a thief, murderer and adulterer; Mary Magdalene was a fallen woman. We don't have to become saints in order to share in the fellowship of God and of the saints -- *and that's a good thing!* It is the other way around; we share in holy fellowship in order to become better saints. And we strive to be more saintly in order to make the world -- our homes, our schools, our workplaces -- better. Wherever we are in our life's journey, God is there with us, ready to lead us forward to the next step -- even when we've taken a few steps backward. We need only take his hand.

What does "Christ in you" look like? In his first Epistle, St. John writes, "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble." Whenever we treat another person with the same gentleness, the same tolerance, and the same patience that Christ shows towards us, then Christ is in us and acting through us. The mark of Christian conversion is not simply its beginning point, "accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior." Beyond that, Christian conversion is a life of ongoing conversion through the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of love, until the fullness of Christ dwells in us.

From Senior Warden, David Zittel

Dear Parish Family,

I have pondered what to contribute to this month's Missal. This first is a recap of the annual meeting in brief. We had a respectable turnout for our annual meeting, and I am pleased at the enthusiasm of those who have agreed to serve as vestry members and those who have agreed to be delegates or alternate delegates to the annual diocesan convention. I was also pleased that those present agreed that our clergy and staff deserved a raise, and we will work to make that happen. Now for some other thoughts that are strictly mine. There are some former members of St. Michael's who left the Episcopal church over LGBTQ+ issues and those who left when women were allowed to be ordained. Other conservatively leaning members left St. Michael's when our pulpit with a liberal point of view delved into politics. Now, it seems that politics is delving into the affairs of the church. The Victor Hugo book *Les Misérables* comes to mind. Jean Valjean, the principal character - a thief who makes good, is given shelter by the church in the opening scene. How would we as a church family handle an illegal immigrant seeking shelter? What would Jesus do?

Yours in Christ,

David Zittel, Sr. Warden

FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 2 1:00 p.m.

Book Discussion Group

For February, we'll read *Circe* by Madeline Miller. A bold and subversive retelling of the most infamous female figure from The Odyssey. Contact: Carol Wittmer

Worship Committee Meeting after second service

February 8 1:30 p.m.

Memorial Service for The Rev. Canon Charles Woltz

February 11 Election Day

A City of Norman election will be held in the ingathering space, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

February 13 5:00 p.m.

Care-A-Van Meals Prep for the Unhoused

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

February 14 7:00 p.m.

WILD MEN'S NIGHT OUT



On Friday, February 14, 2025, Wild Men's Night Out continues the tradition of celebrating with the women of St. Michael's in honor of Saint Valentine's Day. While many people will be there as couples, our tradition is that many women and men attend with or without partners. This is not a "date night" which means that all adults of Saint Michael's and their guests are welcome. In addition to the usual excellent charcoal-grilled steak, a grilled chicken selection will be available. The Best Steak You Ever Had is only \$20.⁰⁰. The Chicken selection will be \$5.⁰⁰, although donations are always appreciated. Salad, baked potatoes, garlic bread, vegetables and a fruit selection complete the menu. Another variation is that wine will be available in addition to the many choices of ales and specialty brewed beverages. All adults of Saint Michael's, and their guests are welcome. The only requirements are: that you sign-up before February 12, that you make clear your menu choice on the sign-up sheet, and that you have fun.... Contact: Peter Rodrigues

February 16

Vestry Meeting after second service

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.

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 with us.

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 at 10:00 a.m. on March 4th. This will be a hybrid meeting via Zoom and in person at the church. Contact: Amy Gardner

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

February Densifier schedule: Feb 8 at the Purcell Public Library and Feb 12 at University Lutheran. Densifying on Univ Lutheran parking lot takes place during the week when the weather allows. Call Doug Bowden at 405-831-9951 to learn when you can volunteer to "feed the monster." 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.

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.

Flowers and Candles

Sign-up sheets are out for you for flowers and candles for the altar on Sundays. Simply sign your name, who or what you are honoring, and we will send you an invoice after that Sunday. Flowers are \$45 and Candles are \$10. Contact: Debi Kelley

Greeter, Usher and Oblationer Team

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered!! The schedule will be in every Tuesday's email. SEE PAGE 4! Contact: Santa Velez

Laundry Love

St. Michael's will sponsor Laundry Love on April 26 so please begin to bring quarters to support this ministry. We need \$500 to pay for the washing and drying. Contact Amy Gardner

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Our usual menu will be different this year. We will serve breakfast food which will include eggs, breakfast meats, various muffins, fruit, coffee and teas. If you would like to help bake muffins, please contact Kathy Rodrigues at 405-464-7635. Please join us at this celebration right before the season of Lent.

Outreach Committee

The next Outreach Meeting is Saturday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m. 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 not meet in February. We are invited to the Wild Men's Dinner on February 14. Please sign up by February 12 if you plan to attend.

Sharon's Wagon

In February Sharon's Wagon will collect items for the Blessing Bags for our Unhoused Neighbors. Suggested items: lotion, chapstick, hothands, water, crackers (with cheese) or granola bars, mylar blankets, and socks. Any other items for keeping our neighbors warm and comfortable are welcome!

In March, we will collect new socks for distribution at the April Laundry Love. 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

Would you be willing to be on a team to help at special services such as weddings or funerals? We have a small group and could really use more. We have a detailed procedures manual for funerals.

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.

Yoga Class

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



Thank you to Tom Wakely for giving the office some lovely new postage stamps!



Why do we need greeters? Church greeters are important because they set the tone for a visitor's experience by offering a warm, welcoming presence at the church entrance, making new attendees feel seen, valued, and comfortable enough to engage with the community, potentially leading them to return and become more involved in the church. A positive, but *not overwhelming greeting*, aligns with the church's strong emphasis on inclusivity and makes everyone feel comfortable upon entering the building. This reflects the core value of hospitality within the Christian faith; essentially, setting the tone for the entire worship experience. Those first

20 seconds leave a lasting impression. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to offer St. Mike's hospitality and welcome to everyone. Contact Santa Velez!

February Days to Remember

Birthdays

2/1 Jon Roberts
2/2 Betty Falato
2/2 Debi Kelley
2/4 Peter Goodchild
2/4 David Sims
2/5 Carol Zerboni
2/13 Tracey Johnson
2/13 David McCallister
2/14 Basha Hartley♡
2/15 Shelley Dawson
2/20 Howard Moore
2/22 David Cook
2/24 Bob Mansfield
2/24 Nancy Littlejohn
2/27 Todd Murray

On the anniversary of their death

2/4/2018 David Smith
2/4/2022 Robert "Pepper" Haraway
2/6/2011 Nelson Ray
2/7/2014 Aidan LeDoux
2/7/2000 Gwinn Norman
2/16/2023 Ann Sister Eckl
2/15/2014 Robert Busch
2/22/2020 Catheryn Owens

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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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

Josh Yarbrough, Junior Warden jry246@gmail.com 405.226.5187

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 2025 Vestry

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