



Mike's Missal



January 2023

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

administrator@stmichaelsnorman.org

www.stmichaelsnorman.org

Sunday Service is at 10:00 A.M.

Live on YOUTUBE

From Father Joseph Farber

In Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, the word for spirit, breath, and wind is the one word. The ancients thought of them, not as we perceive them through the filter of English, as three different things, but as one thing.

The Spirit of God which prepared the void for creation is also the Breath of God, bearing God's creative Word ("Logos") into the activity of creation. The very same Breath which breathed life into Adam flows into our lungs and enlivens our bodies. The wind in the trees, the wind in the desert and on the plains speaks to us constantly, and yet we do not hear, or know Whose voice it carries. As St. John complains, "The Logos was already in the cosmos, and the cosmos came into being through the Logos. But the cosmos did not understand the Logos."

What a difference it could make in our lives if we recovered the lost perceptions of the ancient world! What if, with every breath, we experienced taking the Spirit of God into our selves? What if every breeze spoke to us, carrying God's Wisdom, His living Word, into our hearts? What if God wasn't something we read about, heard about, or studied, but something we experienced as living and loving, something we steeped in, someone we drew into ourselves with every breath?

We do. We all do. But most of the time we are no more aware of it than a fish is aware of the water in which it swims. The narrative of the Bible helps us understand how an ancient people encountered and understood God. In Jesus, especially on the Cross, we see God's true nature revealed. But it's all useless information if we never make an effort to be in relationship with God, to connect to the reality of the God in whom we live and move and have our being. The Church has an essential role to play in helping us and the world make this connection. In the sacrament of the Church and, especially in the sacrament of Communion, we experience God in the fullness of both vertical and horizontal relationships.

Relationship is everything. Our relationships make us what we are, for good or ill. The way we relate to others makes them what they are and helps determine the way they relate to us. Just as the way we relate to our own parents affects the way we related to our children, so our relationship, or lack of relationship, to God affects every moment of our lives and every relationship we have. That's why love, not law, is the highest standard of relationship and of discipleship. Law can be observed even in the absence of relationship; but love requires that we be in relationship.

God is in the next breath you take. Be aware of it. Take a moment and be thankful. Try to align your heart with God's heart and your will with God's will. You will be amazed at how it transforms your life!

Father Joseph

JANUARY EVENTS

Outreach Committee Meeting January 7

Our Outreach Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 7th to discuss plans for 2023. Upcoming Outreach opportunities include Refugee Coalition fundraiser, Social Injustice League monthly meals for the homeless, Sharon's Wagon schedule, and Norman Pride. This is an excellent time to bring new outreach opportunities to the group. Contacts: Amy Gardner or Rachel Armstrong.

Epiphany Pageant January 8

The most awesome Epiphany Pageant returns! After a COVID hiatus, we are having an Epiphany Pageant again. The pageant will take place on Sunday, January 8th in conjunction with our worship service. The story is told through first person accounts of the people and animals that are part of the story of Jesus' birth. Different members of our parish have volunteered to write about His birth from their characters' point of view. Come hear the story in a unique and fun way on Sunday, January 8th!!

Christian Formation January 8

Christian Formation will meet after the service on Sunday, January 8th.

Book Discussion Group January 8

The Book Discussion Group will meet at 1:00 pm on Sunday, January 8th. The book for January is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. The book group meets the first Sunday of each month. Contact: Carol Wittmer.

Wild Men January 13

St. Michael's men will meet for an evening of fellowship and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Friday, January 13th. 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 and first-time guests can enjoy all this for FREE. Please sign up as we need an accurate count for our steak order by January 11. Contact: Peter Rodrigues.



Vestry Meeting January 15

The Vestry will meet following the service on Sunday January 15th in the Education Building.

Meal Boxing for the Unhoused January 18

We continue to provide one meal per month for 40 unhoused friends. It can be overwhelming cooking a main course for 40 but there is always the option of splitting the meal into two 20 serving meals. If you'd like to cook but are not sure about the amount of food, team up, then sign up for part. We will reimburse up to \$50 for the main course if needed (or \$25 for 20 meals.) Contacts: Debi Kelley or Amy Gardner.

Saucy Sisters

January 20

Saucy Sisters will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 20th. We will enjoy a Puerto Rican meal prepared by Santa Valez. All women of the parish are invited. The cost is \$10, but the first time is free. Sign-up is in the In-gathering Space. Contact: Amy Gardner.



Worship Committee Meeting January 22

The Worship Committee will meet in the library after the service on January 22.

Annual Meeting

The membership will gather after the service on Sunday, January 29, for the Annual Meeting.

Other Ministries

Book Sale

We are collecting books and other media items for the next book sale in the spring. 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 Rachel or Nancy know. If you would like to join the Care Team, there is a sign-up sheet available.

Church Directory

The 2023 Directory will be out the first week of January!

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 event: 10:00 a.m. to noon, January 7th at the Shawnee Public Library.

Crafters

Our crafters meet at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other crafts to work on and join the fellowship. Contact: Amy Gardner

Laundry Love

St. Michael's will sponsor Laundry Love in February or March 2023. Please bring your quarters to support this ministry. We need \$500 to pay for the washing and drying. Also, we need to provide lunch for about 100 people. Contact Amy Gardner

Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

St. Michael's has been very generous with donations, and we hope to continue this year. There are plans to accept new families in 2023.

Our families will continue to need our support as they adjust to the cost of living in the US. Rent and utilities

are much more than the dads can afford on what they made. They do receive help from other agencies but will need our help for a while longer. Please consider what you can do next year to help in the coalition. We can always use volunteers. See the website for more information. www.nc4rs.org

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: Amy Gardner

Sharon's Wagon

January we will collect supplies needed for Food and Shelter's Overnight Shelter. Items needed include shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, razors, brushes/combs, winter hats, gloves, and bath towels. Contact: Amy Gardner.

Ushers, Greeters and Oblationers needed!

Contact Tonya Fleming at Tawneyd1970@gmail.com
or
Tracey Johnson at tlj19674192@gmail.com

January Days to Remember

Birthdays

1/1 Deandra Warner
1/1 Andrew Fagg
1/3 Carla Waugh
1/3 Gabriella Valdes
1/4 Nancy Wakely
1/7 Chris Clarke
1/7 Mary Frances Albert
1/10 Sue Harrington
1/11 Amy Gardner
1/16 Ann Selvidge
1/19 Richard Hancock
1/23 Thomas Tahkofper
1/23 Rick Young
1/23 Elizabeth Blazek
1/24 Suzette McDowell
1/24 Tonya Fleming
1/27 Jeff Bugher
1/29 Serenity Bugher

Anniversaries

1/29/1990 Jeff & Sonia Bugher

On the anniversary of their death



1/6/1990 Inez Price, 1/6/2022 Carolyn Demps,
1/7/1990 Robert Bibens, 1/8/2004 Margaret Long,
1/11/1978 Nell Snead, 1/11/1986 Robert
Simmons, 1/16/1978 Carolyn Gray, 1/17/1998
Margaret Wheeler, 1/17/1988 Arthur Parduhn,
1/18/2020 Warren Zittel, 1/18/2022 Eric Zittel,
1/19/1985 James Dunn, 1/19/1995 Dorothy
Lower, 1/19/1997 Sheila Dean, 1/22/2010 Jonell
Luttrell, 1/25/1998 Marian Holmaas, 1/27/2000
Vera Duke, 1/20/2013 Carl Melton.

Handy Information

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the office at 405-321-8951 during regular hours, or call Father Joseph, 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

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 405-321-8951 or 541-300-9207

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

Deacon Ann Murray deaconann18@gmail.com 405-919-8533

Parish Musician Jon Roberts dachs.mirabilis@icloud.com 405-850-5252

Peter Rodrigues, Senior Warden studiepete@gmail.com 405-651-7717

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

Rachel Armstrong, Financial Secretary, treasurer@stmichaelsnorman.org 405-321-8951

OTHER CONTACTS:

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Your Vestry

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