



Mike's Missal



June 2023

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 720326
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www.stmichaelsnorman.org

Sunday Service is at 10:00 A.M.

Live on YOUTUBE

From Father Joseph Farber

"Above, Through, and In"

God the Father, says St. Paul, is "above all things and through all things and in all things." (Ep 4:6). This is the underlying assumption about the nature of God and the nature of the created world underlies everything the Gospels and Epistles have to teach. Some have thought this to be a pantheistic view, that everything is God. But it is, as Alfred Lord Tennyson put it in the 19th century poem, "A Higher Pantheism." The Christian God is not only in and through everything but also above and beyond everything: imminent in everything, but also transcendent beyond all things. The more precise 20th-century term for this is not pantheism, but panentheism, not "Everything is God," but "Everything is in God."

This is a very important thing to understand. The Bible uses many varied images for God. Among other images and metaphors, God is variously depicted in the Bible as a king, a god of gods, a father, a mother, a bridegroom, a judge, a warrior, a lover. All of these are relate-able human metaphors reaching towards the majesty of the One that pervades everything that is. Yet it is a serious mistake to make any one of these metaphors into a permanent idol to stand in the illimitable God's place in our hearts and minds. It is the temptation to make, as it were, a "graven image of God" in our imaginations. It inevitably diminishes the depth and breadth and majesty of the Divine when we do so. Historically, and especially as Christianity changed from a spiritual movement into an official religion of the Empire, that is exactly what we did.

One can easily understand how the human heart, trying to express the power and majesty of God, would draw upon human images of judge and king or, for that matter, lover and beloved, in an attempt to express the kinds of intense and powerful feelings stirred up in us by the Eternal. It is also easy to understand how an official religion of the state would prefer to emphasize the judge and king aspect and diminish the lover and beloved. That clearly happened when Constantine made Christianity into the *de facto* religion of state. (It was actually his successor, Constantius, who made Christianity into the *official* religion of the state.)

One of the consequences of making the king or judge into our sole image of God is that we lose the intimacy with God as Father that Jesus emphasized as essential in his ministry and Paul insisted upon in his theological musings. God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. God not only establishes the laws that govern the stars above our heads

but also the sub-atomic particles that make up our molecules. This understanding is essential to understanding the teachings of the New Testament.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus focused upon the image of God as Father, and taught his followers to think of God as their Father, as well. A good parent occupies a position of benevolent authority in the life of the child. The child trusts itself completely to the parent's love and care, even when things are dicey. The characteristics of a good parent-child relationship -- and this particular metaphor for God -- are love, faithfulness, and hope.

The Christian understanding of God is not only "out there above us," but also "in here with us." Because of this fundamental intimacy that Jesus encourages us to embrace, we are able to affirm with Lord Tennyson,

"Speak to Him, thou, for He hears, and Spirit with Spirit can meet-
Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet."

The Higher Pantheism, by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The sun, the moon, the stars, the seas, the hills, and the plains,-
Are not these, O Soul, the Vision of Him who reigns?

Is not the Vision He, tho' He be not that which He seems?
Dreams are true while they last, and do we not live in dreams?

Earth, these solid stars, this weight of body and limb,
Are they not sign and symbol of thy division from Him?

Dark is the world to thee; thyself art the reason why,
For is He not all but thou, that hast power to feel "I am I"?

Glory about thee, without thee; and thou fulfillest thy doom,
Making Him broken gleams and a stifled splendour and gloom.

Speak to Him, thou, for He hears, and Spirit with Spirit can meet-
Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.

God is law, say the wise; O soul, and let us rejoice,
For if He thunder by law the thunder is yet His voice.

Law is God, say some; no God at all, says the fool,
For all we have power to see is a straight staff bent in a pool;

And the ear of man cannot hear, and the eye of man cannot see;
But if we could see and hear, this Vision-were it not He?

JUNE EVENTS

Memorial Reception for Carol Gibbens 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 3

All are welcome to come to remember Carol and visit with her family.

Kenton Huff and Bridget Parmenter Wedding 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 3

St. Michael's Congregation is invited to this joyous occasion, but there will not be room for us at the reception.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group is on summer break and will meet again on September 3.

Budget Committee Meeting June 6 10:00 a.m.

Please join us if you are interested. Contact Amy Gardner.

Wild Men June 9

St. Michael's men will meet for an evening of fellowship and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 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. 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 June 7. Contact: Peter Rodrigues or Brandt Cassidy.



Care-A-Van Meals Prep for the Unhoused June 14

We are signed up through the end of 2023 to prepare 40 meals once a month. Sign-up sheets are available. If you'd like to prepare the main meal please sign up and add suggested sides or dessert.

Check out the Norman Care-A-Vans Facebook page for the wonderful work Care-A-Vans does in our community. Contact: Debi Kelley

Saucy Sisters June 16

Saucy Sisters will meet on Friday, June 16th. Syra Vaz will be making a simple, Indian meal of rice, chicken tikka, and cabbage on Friday, June 16th. We meet at 5:30 and dinner is served at 6:00. Suggested donation is \$10, but first time is free. Sign-up is in the In-gathering Space. Contact: Amy Gardner.



A Celebration of the Life of Tedford H Cook.

At 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, we will celebrate the life of Ted Cook, Evelyn Bibbens' loving partner of nearly 20 years. His obituary may be viewed at <https://www.johnirelandfuneralhome.com/listings>.

Faith in Film Series

St. Michael's is offering fun family movie nights this summer on the third Saturday evenings of June, July, and August. We will gather for a potluck at 5:00 p.m., eat while watching the movie, and end with a short discussion. It will be a great time of food and fellowship. So, bring some good food and friends and family and enjoy faith in film. Come and join us for good food, fun and fellowship.

June 17 – The Way (PG-13)
<https://m.imdb.com/title/tt1441912/>

July 15 - All Saints (PG)
<https://m.imdb.com/title/tt4663548/>

August 19 – Flywheel
<https://m.imdb.com/title/tt0425027/>

Will and Estate Clinic Follow-up Appointments June 24

Wise Women is cancelled in June.

Christian Formation Committee June 25

The Formation Committee will meet on Sunday, June 25th after the service.

Other Ministries & News

Deacon Laura will be out of the state on vacation/veterinary continuing education meetings from June 9 - 18.

Rachel Armstrong, our amazing Financial Secretary, is moving to Philadelphia in late June. We are all so grateful for her dedicated service to St. Michael's. She will be greatly missed. Join us at a farewell reception after the service on June 18.

Altar Guild

Fresh altar flower arrangements may be donated to honor a friend or family member, to remember a loved one, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or for any reason you wish. Your generosity will help to defray the cost to the parish and enhance the beauty of our church. Donations also can be made for the Sanctuary Candle. Candles are often donated in memory of loved ones or to the Glory of God.

Sign-up sheets are on the counter in the ingathering space. Contact: Rachel Armstrong

Also, we need a couple of people who are willing and able to make our altar flowers look beautiful for Sunday morning—please contact the church office.

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.

Chalice Bearers

St. Michael's needs Lay Eucharistic Ministers aka Chalice Bearers. Lay Eucharistic Ministers are lay persons licensed by the bishop to administer the consecrated elements of the eucharist. Lay eucharistic ministers may be licensed to administer the wine at any celebration of the eucharist in the absence of a sufficient number of priests and deacons to assist the

celebrant. This ministry is understood to be an extraordinary ministry and is not to take the place of the ministry of priests and deacons concerning the administration of the eucharist. We will train you.

If you would like to participate as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, please fill out the application. Click on this link: https://www.episcopaloklahoma.org/dfc_attachments/public/documents/900549/Eucharistic_Minister_Application.pdf.

Fill out your information, including why you want to be a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Return it to Deacon Ann either in person or by email at deaconann18@gmail.com. She will get the appropriate signatures.

Churches Caring for Creation

Since 2018, this coalition of churches, along with other community organizations has worked tirelessly to recycle Styrofoam. Did you know that family poultry farmers receive 500 – 600 egg cartons monthly for reuse? And that feral cat rescue organizations take large coolers for winter cat shelters? And the City of Norman has built a secure enclosure for the densifier storage on S. Chautauqua? See this article for more information: <https://www.okl.coop/story/foam-finds-second-life/>

The next densifying events are June 10 at the Purcell Public Library and July 8 at the Norman Public Library Central.

Crafters

Crafters meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other craft and enjoy the fellowship. Volunteers are always needed to decorate lunch bags for Laundry Love. Contact Amy Gardner.

Laundry Love

Start saving your quarters for our next Laundry Love on August 14th. It is a back-to-school event and we will be gathering school supplies through Sharon's Wagon. Contact Amy Gardner

The Library at St. Michael's

We have a fantastic library space thanks to the hard work and dedication of our retired librarians! It is time for us to continue the work they began. Deacon Laura oversees re-thinking and updating our library to

fit our current needs. The library will remain the library- fear not! But we are determining the direction of the library including- what books we should keep and what we should add, check-out system, cataloging, and how we can best serve our parish members and the surrounding community. If you have suggestions, ideas, concerns, or books you know would like to keep or add to library, please contact Deacon Laura. If you would like to serve on the library committee, who will also be responsible for doing the work of updating the library, contact Deacon Laura at aurablazek@sbcglobal.net - please make sure you are identifying yourself as a member of St. Mike's since she doesn't have everyone's email address.

The newly formed Library Committee will meet at 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 1st in our library.

Norman Coalition for Refugee Support

NCRS is sponsoring a summer school for our Afghani middle and high school students. It will be held at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 S. 24th Ave SW from 9 am - noon. Summer School will be Monday-Thursday from June 12 - 29 and July 10 - 27.

Bridget Parmenter will be our teacher. Volunteers are needed to help with tutoring English and math. Also, we will need snacks, juice, and fruit for a mid-morning snack. We have a specific request for tutoring Geometry to a high school student.

NCRS requires all volunteers who work with students to have a current background check (at no cost to the volunteer).

Please view the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Questions: Contact Jim (jemmettg@me.com) or Amy Gardner (awgardner@yahoo.com). Thank you!

Outreach meeting

Our next Outreach Meeting will be Saturday, July 1 at 9 am. Please join us if you are interested. Contact Amy Gardner

Prayer Chain and Prayer List

A small group of 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. If you feel called to this ministry, contact Amy Gardner. The Prayer List is a

public list of those in need published in the Sunday service bulletin. Contact: Nancy Littlejohn

Readers for Prayers of the People

Before COVID, lay readers read the Prayers of the People. Since COVID the Deacons have been reading them. Now we have returned to lay readers. Please prayerfully consider whether you are called to this ministry. If you are interested, please let Deacon Ann know so that she can start a schedule and do a brief training.

Retreat in Daily Life – Summertime Abundance – A Quiet Day to explore God's Gifts.

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma School of Spiritual Direction is holding "Quiet Days" around the state this summer to get a quick glimpse at "Retreat in Daily Life" – an eight month program to deepen your faith through Ignatian Spirituality. Details are available at church along with a registration form. Deacon Ann will be co-leading one on August 5 at St. Christopher's in Midwest City.

Sharon's Wagon

Sharon's Wagon will be collecting school supplies during June and July to be distributed at Laundry Love's Back to School Event on August 14th. A list of supplies needed by Norman Elementary School students will be available in Sharon's Wagon. Contact Amy Gardner.

Ushers, Greeters and Oblationers needed!

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

Worship Committee

The worship committee's next meeting will be in July.

THANK YOU

to The Spirit Shop at 109 S. Berry
for donating our communion wine!

HOW CAN WE LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Kevin O'Brien, SJ. *THE IGNATIAN ADVENTURE: Experiencing the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius in Daily Life*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2011. Available in paperback & e-book formats, \$12-15.

In this transitional time for our planet and church, do you hear Christ's call to heal and nurture ourselves and one another spiritually? To deepen our prayer practices for guidance needed in our daily lives? To listen to the Holy Spirit for discernment of our own and one another's gifts for lay ministry to church and community? If you do hear that divine call now, Kevin O'Brien's *The Ignatian Adventure* is for you. This basic text grounds several experiences that the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma's Iona School of Spiritual Direction offers to guide and support our spiritual growth in response to any such challenging call. These experiences include (1) spiritual direction for individuals and (2) an eight-months course of Ignatian Exercises called "The Retreat in Daily Life," which Deacon Ann Murray mentored at St. Mike's this year. With or without those experiences, this handbook can guide worshipers who are searching for a spiritual practice to supplement parish Lectio Divina or EfM and guide lay ministry efforts to honor the Baptismal Covenant. Or it can nourish parishioners in the Light of Christ who are already praying the BCP's Daily Office, doing Cursillo, practicing Centering Prayer, working Twelve Steps, reading or writing spiritual poetry, or practicing another form of contemplation in any loving tradition of spiritual culture, music, art, or handcraft, and wanting to shape their own lay ministry more purposefully.

The Ignatian Adventure begins with a brief biography of Inigo Lopez de Loyola y Onaz (1491-1556), a noble-born Basque whom today we call Saint Ignatius. He left his vainglorious knightly life following a painful, debilitating battle wound to become a pilgrim and eventually to establish the Jesuit order.

Kevin O'Brien's own parallel self-examining autobiography beckons disciples to contemplate our own spiritual biographies' formation now. O'Brien calls his book "a school of prayer." It includes a collection of prayer classics by Thomas Merton, Mary Oliver, John Cardinal Henry Newman, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Karl Rahner, Oscar Romero, Pope Francis, Elizabeth A. Johnson, Rabindranath Tagore, and various saints and Jesuits, including Ignatius himself. The most important Ignatian prayer practice is, however, one we make alone daily to become self-aware, using St. Ignatius's prayer-format called "The Examen." In this spiritual "adventure," we cultivate our own Christian graces, just one or two at a time, praying the Examen from Ordinary Time through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. This handbook's day-by-day, week-by-week core teaches also diverse ways of engaging Biblical text imaginatively to understand and transform our own lives—combining deep-listening, reading, contemplation, and journaling perhaps also with seeking and following spiritual direction. Such devotion requires sustained eagerness to interpret any neighbor's statement in a good Light rather than condemn it, or if that feels impossible, to ask how the neighbor means it: Resolve confusion and prevent misinterpretation up front! Taking *The Ignatian Adventure* as our guide now may call us forward into parish or community lay ministry, perhaps even (sooner or later, maybe never?) into Iona School's training to become a parish spiritual director.

Reviewed by Susan Laird

June Days to Remember

Birthdays

6/1 James Schlittler
6/3 Ken Stanton
6/4 Karen Goodchild
6/6 Breanna Gray
6/12 Liz Wilson
6/14 Wanda Thompson
6/16 Adjoa Ahedor
6/18 Syra Vaz
6/22 Zane Gray
6/26 Hadley Sprouse
6/30 Karen Nix

On the anniversary of their death



6/4/1982 Guy Dellinger
6/6/1987 Aline Asher
6/12/1988 Lucile Jameson
6/12/2003 Shaun Kelly, III
6/21/2003 Mildred Zittel
6/17/2007 Roland Brown
6/5/2011 Dan Gibbens
6/26/2011 Kathaleen Cassidy
6/21/2013 Mary Kay Vasseur
6/22/2013 Irene Jernigan
6/7/2018 John McDowell
6/5/2019 Roger Banks
6/27/2019 Thomas Pearson

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.

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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

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