

TRANSITION MINISTRY NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

- 1. Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which we recognize as one of success and fulfillment.**

One of the greatest successes in St. Bartholomew's recent ministry has been its commitment to community outreach and the successful launch of impactful programs. Initiatives such as the Food Pantry, Angel Tree Christmas Gifts, Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Event, and the Blessing of the Animals have not only been well-attended but also deeply appreciated by the community. These events have strengthened St. Bartholomew's presence as a compassionate and welcoming leader, demonstrating a true commitment to serving others and carrying out the work of Christ.

- 2. Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by our community.**

St. Bartholomew's offers three Services, each catering to different preferences and traditions while maintaining a strong sense of community and faith.

On Saturday we have a service at 5 PM. The Saturday service is casual, it has no singing or music but does have a sermon, eucharist, common prayers, bible readings and status updates. In general, it follows Rite II and enjoys a blend of mid to older adults.

On Sunday, two services are offered. The first service is at 8 AM following a morning coffee hour. The 8 AM service is traditional, using follows Rite I; like the Saturday service it does not include congregational singing, but it does include Sanctus bells. The congregation tends to be older adults.

The second Sunday service is at 10:30 AM. This service is the most family-oriented service. The 10:30 AM service follows Rite II and tends to be more formal than the two other services. Music is a big part of the service with hymns, sung responses, and Sanctus bells. Childcare is offered at this service as well as a children's activity area at the back of the Nave. The service is usually followed by a coffee hour, a meal, meeting and/or entertainment. The service is livestreamed on the parish's Facebook and YouTube channels.

3. How do we practice incorporating others in ministry?

At St. Bartholomew's, we actively encourage and incorporate members into all aspects of ministry, fostering a deep sense of engagement and community. During services, parishioners play key roles beyond attendance, assisting in the sacraments as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs), leading prayers, and reading Scripture. Many also contribute to worship through music, whether by singing in the choir, leading hymns, or playing instruments during Sunday services.

Beyond worship, members take on leadership roles in various ministries, including community outreach, financial stewardship, and accounting. Additionally, we place great importance on pastoral care, with members dedicated to visiting and supporting those who are sick or facing difficulties. By providing these opportunities, St. Bartholomew's ensures that every member has a chance to actively participate in and contribute to the life and mission of the church.

4. As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

The pastor and the congregation are deeply involved in looking after our members who are ill, depressed or need help in any number of ways. We make phone calls, home or

hospital visits to look after members who have physical, mental health, or life issues that need to be addressed. We also offer frequent coffee hours and gatherings to involve and inspire all members and visitors. Additionally, we have recently added Walking for Wellness as a way to encourage Healthy activities. These efforts are felt to be one of the most important functions of the church.

5. How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

St. Bartholomew's is deeply committed to pastoral care that extends beyond our worshipping community, actively engaging in outreach programs that serve and support those in need. Our initiatives include:

- **Food Pantry & Sack Lunch Program** – Providing essential nourishment to individuals and families facing food insecurity.
- **Women's Shelter Support** – Assisting and uplifting women in crisis.
- **Girls Education Matters (G.E.M)** – A ministry partnership helping girls in Guatemala attend school to facilitate a better life for themselves and their families.
- **Angel Tree Program** – Providing Christmas gifts to disadvantaged families.
- **Blessing the Badges** – Honoring and praying for first responders.
- **Blessing of the Animals** – Celebrating and blessing beloved pets.
- **Community Events** – Welcoming non-members to share meals during **Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter**, and other special occasions.
- **Trunk-or-Treat** – Offering a fun and safe event for local families.
- **Financial Assistance** – When possible we assist non-members in financial need.

6. Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

We support outreach programs such as AA, Alanon, OA by offering weekly meeting space for these groups. We also support Hope Campus, Next Step, and Homeless Services, organizations that provide meals and housing for the homeless in Sebastian County. Several days a week, St. Bartholomew's provides space for musician training, AIDS Ministry, and Prison Ministry. The congregation is generous with their time and financial donations to Hope Campus and similar organizations.

7. Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five Years. Who can be contacted about this?

The Congregation was and is very active in developing programs to help the community particularly in the last five years. In fact, in mid-March we began an LGBTQ support group. Our key activities are: The Food pantry, the summer program for children that teaches and entertains the school kids during summer break and provides some relief to parents both emotionally and financially, Trunk or Treat night at Halloween, Angel Tree Christmas gift giving to needy families and Daughters of the King. Contact information is available on request only to protect individual privacy.

8. How are you preparing yourself for the Church of the future?

We are preparing our parish for the future via active donation solicitations, developing partnerships with other churches in the area, preparing for regional missionary work, developing cost savings programs and of course getting a new Priest to lead us.

9. What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your Worship community?

Our stewardship is rooted in generosity, service, and active participation. We invite and welcome gifts of talent and expertise. Our members give generously of their time and talents, engaging in church activities that strengthen our shared mission. We encourage our congregation to make annual pledges and weekly offerings as an expression of their faith and commitment to our worshipping community.

While our congregation is faithful in its financial support, we recognize opportunities for growth. We hope that our new priest will take an active role in nurturing our financial stewardship, exploring new ways to sustain and expand our ministries, and inspiring deeper engagement in service.

10. What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Frankly we are incredibly fortunate in our parish that we have recently had almost no conflict within our congregation. Does an occasional spat or disagreement occur? Of course, but they are very short lived and pretty much resolve themselves.

11. What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well and when has it gone poorly? What did we learn?

When the previous priest came on board 8 years ago, the church became more community oriented and somewhat more liberal. During his tenure, we initiated the food bank and became active in local outreach programs serving the unhoused community in the area. Additions of activities like Trunk or Treat are not considered changes per se, but they contributed to the congregation's positive attitude about community service. The change in community orientation and the prior priest's social orientation, caused an initial loss of membership, but the church has now recovered and embraced the initiatives began in the past eight years.

12. Please provide four words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future

Leaders of your worshipping community.

ACCESSIBLE, STABLE, FRIENDLY, REVERENT