

# Yarns 'n Prayers

## St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry

News from the 1st Quarter, 2019



**1- Do you know someone in need of our community's prayers?** Whether it's a physical, emotional or spiritual problem, our prayer shawls and blankets carry our prayers to those in need. You can get a shawl or blanket for that someone you know at the Parish Center when it's staffed, or ask someone on the Pastoral Team, or the contact below.

**2- There is no charge for this** but donations of yarn, or money to buy yarn, are appreciated to carry on this ministry.

**3- Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to participate in this ministry?** We gather at the Parish Ministry Center on the second Monday of each month at 1 PM to bless and record new shawls and blankets, share patterns and ideas, and get yarn for new projects. Attendance is not required. You can join this ministry by making at least one shawl or lap blanket. Send your contact info to Paul Joseph Schleitwiler, FCM to be added to the roster

**4- Do you have a story to share about prayer shawls or blankets?** Or other things related to this ministry or the making of shawls and blankets? Did something in this newsletter inspire you to comment about it?

Share what you have to say by email to [pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com](mailto:pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com)

Everyone can contribute



but it doesn't have to be the shirt off your back

### Become like Little Children

Margie Rudnick brought some shawls to one of the Soup Suppers and spoke about their use to carry our prayers to those in need. One little boy asked if he could have a shawl. When he was asked for whom did he want it, he said it was for the homeless man at North Ave. and Harlem, who needs it.

### Pocket Prayer Shawls

The Pastoral team of the Family Mass introduced these prayer cloths sized to fit a pocket or purse for those who want an easily portable reminder of our prayers. Among those who received them is a woman whose father died. She asked for two, one for her mother in Iowa and one for herself. Another woman, who received a prayer shawl because she is being treated for cancer, asked for a pocket shawl for herself and one for an other person also being treated.

Currently they are available from the Pastoral team but we are working on ways to make them available to the whole parish.

### Statistics for the Quarter

Members in this ministry made and submitted fifty shawls and lap blankets this quarter. This includes the 50th shawl made by Charlotte Walsh. Thirty-one shawls and lap blankets went to people in need of our prayers.

### Who are we praying for?

- The person who brings her Eucharist reported a woman who has not been out of bed in two years got a second prayer shawl, because she sent the one she had to her sister in Mexico. The woman, her daughter, her caregiver, and the Communion minister all pray together.
- Nancy Hoel made a shawl for a woman going through divorce, who has a small child less than two years old. Nancy made it big enough to wrap around both mother and child.
- A girl chose one for Grandma who has had multiple hip surgeries and has trouble walking.

### Prayers for a Muslim sister

I rarely buy flowers. But our granddaughter invited us to St. Xavier University to see her receive an award, and I wanted to bring her something special. At the florist shop, I was greeted by a smiling young woman with a faint middle-Eastern accent. She was wearing a bright pink cloche – a telltale sign of someone who has lost her hair. We made 'small talk' as she patiently helped me select a bouquet. Finally, I had the courage to ask her. She said her name was Tamar, and she had just finished her 3rd round of chemo. She was still very tired, and only able to work part-time, until her scheduled surgery in May. (Because she has the BRCA gene, she'll undergo a double mastectomy.) Two days later, thanks to Paul, I was able to take her a soft blue prayer shawl, in a pattern filled with butterflies. Thanks to all the caring people in this ministry, I knew I could assure her she would be prayed for.

~ Mary Nichols Schleitwiler

## Pocket Prayer Shawl

(adapted from an internet pattern by Nancy Hoel)

Size: about 4 ¼ x 4 ¼ About .3 oz. yarn

Size 7 Needles (I put masking tape at the end of one knitting needle to help identify even rows and odd rows)

NOTE: ODD rows; masking tape in R.H. EVEN rows: no masking tape; KNIT

Make knot leaving about 14" of yarn for casting on.

On needle without masking tape at the end, Cast on 19.

Rows 1, 2, 3, 4 Knit across

Row 5: K3, P13, K3

Row 6: Knit across (ALL Remaining even rows, KNIT across)

Row 7: K3, P5, K3, P5, K3

Row 8: Knit

Row 9: K3, P5, K3, P5, K3

Row 10: Knit

Row 11: K3, P5, K3, P5, K3

Row 12: Knit

Row 13: K3, P5, K3, P5, K3

Row 14: Knit

Row 15: K3, P5, K3, P5, K3

Row 16: Knit

Row 17: K3, P2, K9, P2, K3

Row 18: Knit

Row 19: K3, P2, K9, P2, K3

Row 20: Knit

Row 21: K3, P2, K9, P2, K3

Row 22: Knit

Row 23: K3, P5, K3, P5, K3

Row 24: Knit

Row 25: K3, P5, K3, P5, K3

Row 26: Knit

Row 27: K3, P13, K3

Rows 28, 29, 30, 31: Knit across

Row 32: Bind off

## Pocket Prayer Shawl

for crochet

Recommended yarn weights = Sock, Fingering, Baby, Sport, DK, Light Worsted

Recommended hook sizes = D/3.35 mm to G/4.25 mm

Abbreviations: CH = chain, DC = double crochet, SK = skip

SC foundation chain 15 or CH 15, turn, CH 1, SC in 1st chain, SC 14

Row 1 - CH 3 (counts as 1st DC), DC 14

Row 2 - CH 3 (counts as 1st DC), DC 2, CH 1, SK 1, DC, CH 1, SK 1, DC 3, CH 1,

SK 1, DC, CH 1, SK 1, DC 3

Rows 3, 4 - as Row 2

Row 5 - as Row 1

Rows 6, 7 - as Row 2

Row 8 - as Row 1

Row 9 - CH 1, SC in 1st chain, SC 14

Bind off, weave in tails.

~ PJS, FCM

## Why Am I in this Ministry?

When Madonna Leen told me about the Prayer Shawl ministry, she also said that there was nothing for men in need of our prayers. So I started making lap blankets to fill that need. With more time and yarn than that called for, I'm also making shawls.

But why is this ministry important to me? We can't all be with those who need our prayers though we can pray for their needs. More than just a sign that we care and are praying for them, our shawls and blankets are our presence with and embrace of those we pray for. Because they carry our prayers to them, they are also the presence and embrace of God. Jesus lives in what we do for others with the gifts we received from God. ~ Paul Joseph Schleitwiler, FCM

## Our Blessing for Shawls and Lap Blankets

(adapted from Janet Severi Bristow - 2000)

May God's grace be upon these shawls and blankets ...

warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.

May these mantles be a safe haven ... a sacred place of security and well being ...

sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.

May those who receive these shawls and blankets be cradled in hope,

kept in joy, graced with peace,

and wrapped in love.

Blessed be!