

Yarns 'n Prayers



St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry

News from the 1st Quarter, 2021

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. If you need yarn to do this, you can get some from our stash. 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

Statistics for the Quarter

We are all members of this ministry since the things we make carry the prayers of the whole church to those who receive them

Thirty-six people are engaged in making things for this ministry.

This quarter, people made 22 shawls, 5 lap blankets and 22 scarves plus some hats.

36 shawls, 3 blankets and 3 scarves were given to those in need of our prayers. This included a shawl sent to Jamaica. There were also two bulk shipments of items to the border and to an immigrant family in Wisconsin.

Spreading the Ministry

On February 18, we were contacted by Laura Toniutti, the pastoral associate of Blessed Frederic Ozanam in Markham, ON, just northeast of Toronto.

They were just starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry group. They had seen our page on the St. Giles website and were amazed at the amount of shawls, blankets and other items we produced and gave to those in need of prayers. She said they would like to get a sense of how our group is organized, maintains a healthy supply of materials, how we choose recipients, etc.

So we arranged a Zoom meeting where they could speak to our members and get advice. On February 24, Lynn Geary, Annette Hulefeld, Mary Ellen Lesniak and Paul Schleitwiler met with Laura, Shirley and June of Blessed Ozanam for an hour and a half.

On March 9, 2021 they emailed:

Hello Paul and ministry friends,

Thank you for thinking of us! We are making satisfactory progress, and now have 5 knitters, 2 crocheters and two sewers in addition to ourselves. We would like to get a few more parishioners on board ...before gardening season hits haha...and have been working on announcements, bulletin notices, displays and word of mouth to get the message out. We also have made some mini pockets and squares to donate to families having a child baptized in the coming weeks. I am working to finish a shawl I started, so that I might try Annette's pattern next. June has been busy with sewing. We will try to send a few photos soon. With God's grace and mentorship from fine folks like you, we are a work in progress!

Warm regards, Shirley, June and Laura

Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting dates in 2021

We continue meeting via Zoom during this pandemic on the 2nd Monday of each month but may skip a couple of months or meet face-to-face.

Jan. 11 Feb 8 Mar 8

Apr 12 May 10 Jun 14

Jul 12 Aug 9 Sep 13

Oct 11 Nov 8 Dec 13

If you would like to join us, contact Paul Joseph Schleitwiler, FCM at pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com

Some More People We Are Praying For

Madonna's brother
Nancy Hoel's friend. Her husband had a heart attack
Mary Schmidt's sister Nellie who had surgery for colon cancer.
Lucia from Italy for her mother-in-law who was hospitalized in serious condition for covid
Nevin Forde in Jamaica
Aileen, a colleague of Alex, whose husband died suddenly from cancer.
Caroline - who has Covid - is a college student
Christie - friend of Bob Wielgos who has cancer
Mary Ellen's brother-in-law diagnosed with bladder cancer
Arlene whose brother died of Covid
Mary who is overwhelmed with stress
Linda whose husband died.
Mary, from Parish, who had knee replacement
Sara O'Reilly whose father passed and for her mother who lives out of town.
One for a friend (TJH) whose mother had an unexpected and quick diagnosis of cancer with almost immediate progression to hospice, and for his mother the Basilio Alvarez family.
Connie with breast cancer
Chris - a new member of our community - her friend of 40 years lost her husband to COvid
Kathleen Dawson's brother's wife - her brother is quite ill with dementia and ALS
Margaret Brennan's sister for Ted's brother.
Bob Steed's long-time friend in Florida who is mourning death of his wife and struggling with depression
Kathy's brother, Joseph, who is having difficulty with emotional and physical recovery after surgery to donate a kidney.
a young lady that had a knee surgery,
a lady missing her son's family that had to move to another state.
To Bridget Steed in Oregon, Bob and Judy's daughter with auto-immune health concerns

Thanks from

Sister Rosie is at Laredo
"The wonderful items arrived today . They are beautiful .Thank you so much."

Sr. Anne Connolly, Alamo, Tx
"first and foremost much thanks to you and your group for the beautiful box that arrived here earlier this week. those lovely hats and scarves are already on their way to different places in the country with women and children being warmed thanks to you."

Fr. Bill Morton
Thank you so much for the box of handmade winter gear that your group assembled for the folks here in Anapra, Mexico!The items you've sent are really beautiful works of art and made and packaged with such a personal touch. God bless you and your group! May God bring soothing healing and flexibility to your "stick fingers!!!

"Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. I will treasure it always. Recently my husband and I had started saying the rosary every evening. I'm trying to keep up the tradition. I've been saying the rosary with the shawl on my lap. It gives me great comfort. Thank you and the St. Giles prayer shawl ministry for this thoughtful gift. I think you are doing a wonderful thing for your parish. God bless you all."

"I just wanted to write and express my gratitude for the lovely prayer shawl created by the St. Gles prayer shawl ministry and mailed by you to me in Michigan. As my sister noted when she ordered the shawl, I recently lost two of my beloved cats and am trying to maintain my home in Chicago (on Narragansett and Irving Park) while caring for my mom in Michigan. The shawl came at just the right time! God Bless, " Anne.

Our Prayers Are Still Needed

While we continue to create, bless, and distribute prayer shawls, lap blankets and scarves, they are intended to be a reminder of the presence of a loving God and the prayers of a loving community. Those prayers, yours and mine, are the Prayer Shawl ministry for those suffering or for those celebrating a joyous event.

You can help too by giving a shawl, blanket or scarf to someone you know who needs our prayers. The shawls are available at the Parish Center, wrapped in plastic and dated with the date the shawl was last touched by human hands. You can pick up a shawl by calling the Parish Center at 708-383-3430 and leaving a message. One of the staff members will return your call and set up a time to meet you. If that will not work for you, let the staff member know and one of the Prayer Shawl Ministers will plan to get one to you. Either way or both, you can be an instrument of God's love.

Downpour Shawl

Notes: Downpour is a large triangular shawl worked from the top down starting from a garter tab. The three sections of the shawl have both chart and written instructions. It is important to note that the instructions for each half of the shawl (on either side of the center stitch) are different so as to achieve symmetrical droplets.

The ever increasing droplets that cascade down the length of this shawl are reminiscent of raindrops running down a windowpane.

Droplets A Pattern

Row 1 (RS): K3, SM, YO, K1, *K4, YO, K2tog; rep from * to 5 sts before center M, K5, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K5, *SSK, YO, K4; rep from * to 1 st before M, K1, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 2 (and all WS rows): K3, P to last 3 sts, K3.

Row 3: K3, SM, YO, K to center M, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K to M, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 5: K3, SM, YO, K4, *YO, K2tog, K4; rep from * to center M, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K4, *SSK, YO, K4; rep from * to M, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 7: Rep Row 3. 4 sts inc.

Row 9: K3, SM, YO, K3, *YO, K2tog, K4; rep from * to 5 sts before center M, YO, K2tog, K3, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K3, *SSK, YO, K4; rep from * to 5 sts before M, SSK, YO, K3, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 11: Rep Row 3. 4 sts inc.

Row 13: K3, SM, YO, K2, *YO, K2tog, K4; rep from * to 4 sts before center M, YO, K2tog, K2, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K2, *SSK, YO, K4; rep from * to 4 sts before M, SSK, YO, K2, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 15: Rep Row 3. 4 sts inc.

Row 17: K3, SM, YO, K1, *YO, K2tog, K4; rep from * to 3 sts before center M, YO, K2tog, K1, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K1, *SSK, YO, K4; rep from * to 3 sts before M, SSK, YO, K1, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 19: Rep Row 3. 4 sts inc.

Row 21: K3, SM, YO, K6, *YO, K2tog, K4; rep from * to 2 sts before center M, YO, K2tog, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, *SSK, YO, K4; rep from * to 2 sts before M, K2, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 23: Rep Row 3. 4 sts inc.

Row 24: Rep Row 2.

Rep Rows 1-24 for pattern.

Droplets B Pattern

Row 1 (RS): K3, SM, YO, *K2, YO, K2tog; rep from * to center M, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, *SSK, YO, K2; rep from * to M, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 2 (WS): K3, P to last 3 sts, K3.

Row 3: K3, SM, YO, K to center M, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K to M, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 4: K3, P to last 3 sts, K3.

Rep Rows 1-4 for pattern.

Edge Pattern

Row 1 (RS): K3, SM, YO, K2, *YO, K2tog; rep from * to center M, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, *SSK, YO; rep from * to 2 sts before M, K2, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 2 (WS): K3, P to last 3 sts, K3.

Row 3: K3, SM, YO, K1, *SSK, YO; rep from * to 1 st before center M, K1, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K1, *YO, K2tog; rep from * to 1 st before M, K1, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts inc.

Row 4: K3, P to last 3 sts, K3.

Rep Rows 1-4 for pattern.

Picot Bind Off

*CO 2 sts using the Cable Cast On method, BO 5sts, return last st to left needle; rep from * until all sts have been worked. Break yarn and pull through the remaining st.

A tutorial for the Cable Cast On method can be found at <https://tutorials.knitpicks.com/cabled-cast-on/>.

DIRECTIONS

Garter Tab = CO 3 sts. Knit 11 rows; on final row rotate work 90 degrees, PU and K 5 sts along tab edge; rotate work 90 degrees; PU and K 3 sts along cast-on edge. 11 sts.

Setup Section = Row 1 (WS): K3, PM, P2, PM (this is the "center M"), P1 (this is the center st), PM, P2, PM, K3.

Row 2 (RS): K3, SM, YO, K to center M, M1R, SM, K1, SM, M1L, K to M, YO, SM, K3. 4 sts increased

Row 3: K3, P to last 3 sts, K3

Rep Rows 2-3 four more times. 31 sts

Body Section = The body section can be worked from either the written instructions or the charts. The charts only show RS rows, all RS rows are worked from right to left; you will work the chart to the center st (which has a marker either side of it) with the repeated section marked in red, then work the other half of the shawl to the end of the chart, again with the repeated section marked in red. All chart rows are worked as follows:

All RS rows: K3, SM, work chart to final M, SM, K3.

All WS rows: K3, SM, P to last 3 sts, SM, K3.

Work Rows 1-24 of Droplets A pattern or chart a total of 3 times. 175 sts.

Work Rows 1-4 of Droplets B pattern or chart a total of 10 times. 255 sts.

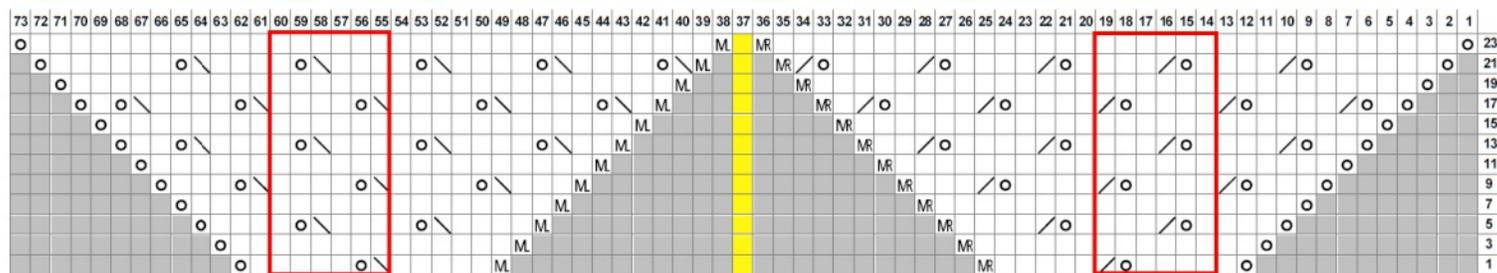
Edge Section = Work Rows 1-4 of Edge Pattern or chart a total of 4 times. 287 sts.

Work Rows 1-2 of Edge Pattern or chart once more. 291.

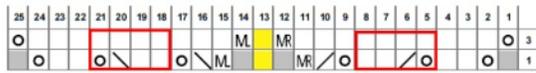
BO all sts using the Picot Bind Off

Finishing = Weave in ends, wash and block aggressively, firstly pin top edge in to a straight line before pulling down the shawl into a triangular shape and pinning along the picot edge. Let dry thoroughly before unpinning.

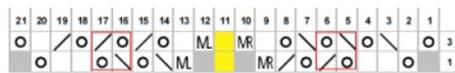
Droplets A Chart



Droplets B Chart



Edge Chart



Legend:

- Knit knit stitch
- YO Yarn Over
- K2tog knit two stitches together as one stitch
- SSK Slip one stitch as if to knit, Slip another stitch as if to knit. Insert left-hand needle into front of these 2 stitches and knit them together
- No Stitch Placeholder - No stitch made.
- Center Stitch
- Pattern Repeat
- make one right Pick up the bar between stitch just worked and the next stitch on needle, inserting left needle from back to front; knit through the front loop.
- make one left Pick up the bar between stitch just worked and the next stitch on needle, inserting left needle from front to back; purl through the backloop.

How many sheep does it take to make a blanket?
None - sheep can't knit

Twist and (Bobble/Rosebud) shawl

Symbols and shorthand

SC = single crochet, 1/2DC = half double crochet, DC = double crochet, TC = triple crochet

SS = slip stitch, CH + chain, YO = yarn over, SK = skip stitch, CC = change color

BLTC = back loop triple crochet, FLTP = front loop triple crochet

(B) = Bobble = (YO, pull up a loop)x4, YO, pul through 8 loops, YO, pull through 2 loops

(R) = Rosebud = CH1, DC (SC, 1/2DC, 3DC) around post of the DC, SC in the CH1

(T) = Twist = SK1, BLTC, FLTC in skipped stitch

(A) = 2DC, CC (B) or (R), CC 2DC

(CTR 1) = 2DC, CH3, 2DC

(CTR2) = CH2, DC, CH2

Note: CC is for the bobble or rosebud. Change color at first instance and carry yarn along to each bobble or rosebud to the last one, leave tail and cut yarn. Tail can be covered by the next row.

Bobble will show on both sides, rosebud only on one.

Row

F - Magic Ring or CH 7, SS in first CH to form ring

1 - CH3, 4DC, CH3, 5DC

2 - CH3, 3DC in 1st stitch, 4DC,(CTR1) in CH3 space, 4DC, 4DC in top of CH3 below - [increase by 5 stitches each side]

3 - CH4, (T)x4,TC, (CTR2) in CH3 space, TC, (T)x4, TC in top of CH3 below

4 - as R2, 4DC now = 9DC from increase, center 2DC in CH2 space, CH3, 2DC in CH2 space

5 = CH3, DC, CC (B) or (R), CC 2DC, repeat (A) to center, (CTR2) in CH3 space, repeat (A) to end

6 - as R4

7 - as R3

8 - as R4

9 - as R5

Repeat R6 through R9 to desired size

What do French speaking women say to hook gentlemen?

"Voulez-vous crochet avec moi ce soir?"



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!