

Yarns 'n Prayers



St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry

News from the 4th Quarter, 2020

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

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,

Update on Scarves for Mercy Home Girls

Last year we made purses and ear warmers for girls at the Mercy Home for Christmas. They were more than Christmas presents since they also carried our prayers. The girls appreciated our care for them.

This year we sent 121 scarves, 39 hats, shawls and more to the girls, to St. Pius for the homeless and to three places on the border where Mercy sisters will distribute them to asylum seekers and the homeless.

Our prayers, yours and mine, go with them, wrapping those who receive them in God's love.



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

Statistics for the Quarter

Nineteen people made 35 shawls, 9 blankets, 121 scarves and 39 hats this quarter.

30 shawls, 9 blankets, 122 scarves and 39 hats plus an assortment of caps and baby sweaters went to people in need of our prayers.

We have added people making shawls, blankets and scarves. Not all participate in meetings or are members of St. Giles.

A Thank You Originally Posted on Facebook

I came home from the hospital Friday afternoon. My surgery was on Election Day (no irony there), so I'm now five days post-op.

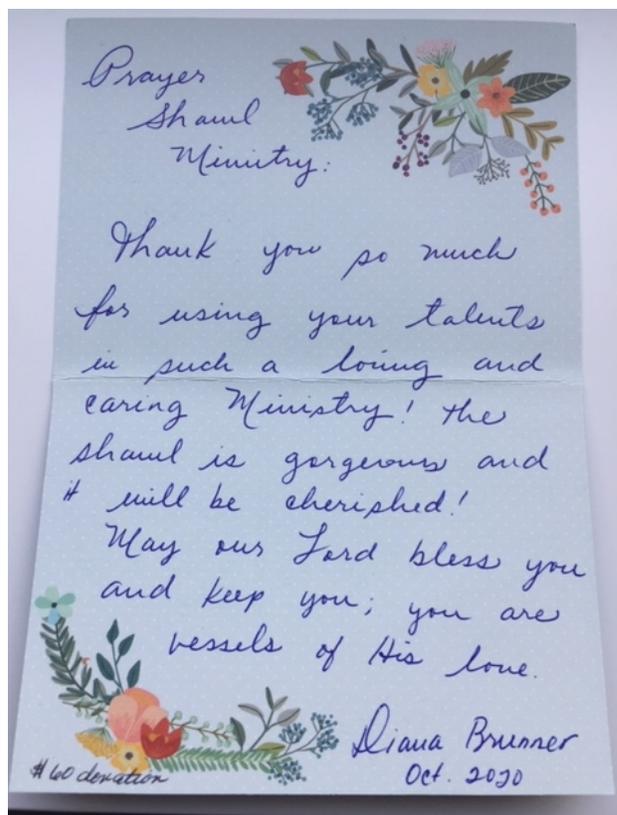
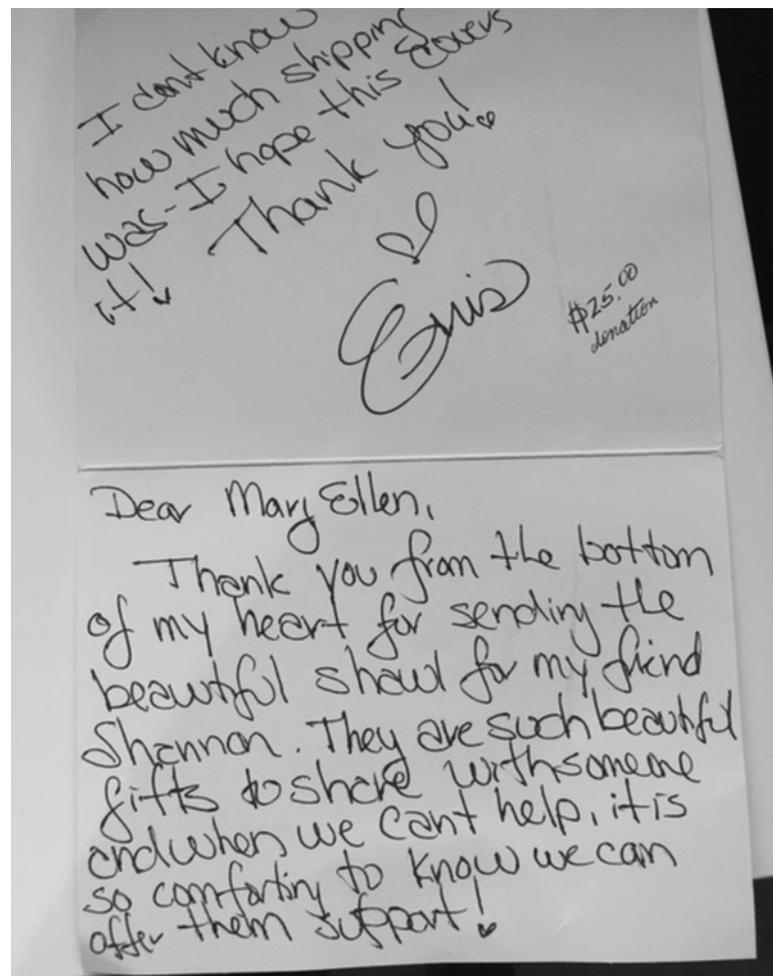
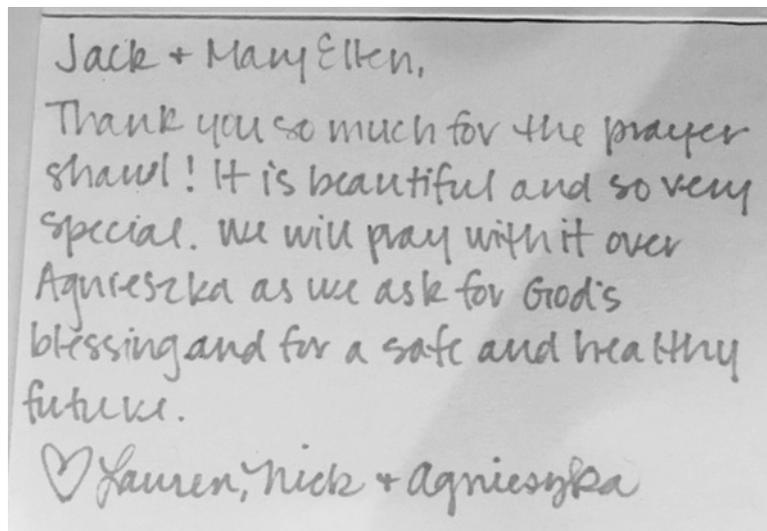
I'll be honest, I hurt.

They took out my right ovary, my right fallopian tube, an infected cyst (which was causing the fevers) and drained another cyst. The surgeon (who was absolutely wonderful and spent a lot of time squeezing my hand and comforting me right before the procedure started) ended up not being able to do it laparoscopic, which she had warned me was a possibility, so had to open up my c-section incision, making it a bigger surgery than I hoped. It feels a little like my c-section in that I feel again like I got taken apart and then put back together wrong. The c-section was so much easier than this though. Maybe because there was a new baby then to distract me. Maybe because I am nine years older now. Maybe because more things came out and got moved around. Who knows.

I am doing a lot of sleeping and waiting and thinking and praying (particularly for healing for the world and everyone whose body or heart is hurting) and hoping that I feel "normal" again soon. I know it's just a matter of time.

I greatly appreciate all the voicemails, texts and messages, I've listened to/read every one and they've cheered me up, as have the flowers, balloons, big fuzzy bear and treats. And the beautiful prayer shawl from St. Giles has provided so much comfort. Even Nate is snuggling up with it when he climbs into bed every day to snuggle with me. THANK YOU.

~ Jennifer Chhatlani.



Another Thank You

A text from a woman who received a prayer shawl:
"Thanks again for the prayer shawl, it means a lot."
She is a woman of few words - this is saying a lot.

Who are we praying for?

Kathy N.'s sister's husband who had surgery and a friend whose husband died.

Mary Pat Baubly

Mary G.'s sister Rita for her 70th birthday. When she received it, she was so touched and thrilled. And she said she is using it to pray with in the mornings

A friend of Margie R. who was admitted to hospice.

Nancy H.'s husband Bob

Nancy H.'s sister in law, Betty, recovering from Covid-19

A.H.'s friend with cancer

Pat & Ron H.

Mary Ellen L.'s friend with lymphoma

David B., stalwart caregiver for Jan B.

Luis M., (Efrain's brother) ill for some time

Pascual F., ill for a long time

Efrain M., grieving for several family deaths, including nephew Alex M.

Angelina M., also grieving family deaths and concerned for A. & C.'s father with cancer in Guatemala

Father of A. (lap shawl for his use or for use in family prayers for him)

Adolfo M., grieving death of son

Stephanie K. after a very difficult birth. Baby is fine . Mom was very grateful

LM. on the death of her husband.

Mary Ellen L.'s daughter-in-law's brother, daughter's Sister-in-laws friend with cancer and grandson's teacher with cancer

A man who left a lucrative career to enter seminary

Four teens setting off to college

Two mothers who were worried about kids going to college

Catherine G.'s sister in law whose son died

A mom whose son diagnosed with seizures

A woman whose father died in a different city and she could not be there

Two teens who lost their grandparents

A teen's two aunts with cancer

A friend in another group who broke her leg

and another person in the group with lung trouble

A woman with breast cancer undergoing radiation treatments

A woman whose child was diagnosed with seizures

A friend of Marie W.

Jean – whose friend died suddenly

Lynn gave her grand daughter a shawl. She is pregnant with Lynn's first great grandchild.

Annette C for a pregnant neighbor

Donna who is ill and in the hospital. A friend of Millie's.

Sara and Victoria from Madonna

A cousin of Jack L. who has died of Covid.

Maudette for a friend of Father Carl

Brittany L. requested by Annette C.. Brittany is Annette's neighbor and is pregnant.

Fr. Tom U. selected by Lauren L. for knee surgery.

Tiffany B. selected by Kate C. - heart, liver transplants

Karen N. by Kate C. - COPD.

Lois P selected by MEL - husband has died.

There were more this quarter than are listed here. Some have died and some have recovered. We pray for those who received things we've made which carry our prayers for their needs. Many of those things are passed on to someone else whom we don't know but who needs our prayers.

We don't have to run through the list every time we pray. God knows who needs our prayers. But we do need to pray. This is our ministry.

Parisian Slouch Hat

Needles: Size 8 double pointed needles (4), Size 8 circular needles, 16"

Gauge: 2 inches stockinette = 10 st/14 row

Yarn: Worsted weight wool

Pattern:

Using circular needles, CO 72.

Place marker and join round.

Row 1: *K2, P2. Repeat from * to end of row.

Repeat row one until piece measures 1 inch. Then begin body of hat.

*K1, M1 (making one new stitch for each existing stitch). Repeat from * to end of row. 144 sts.

Knit until piece measures 7 inches. If you want a slightly less slouchy hat, only knit 6 inches.

Begin decreases.

*K7, K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 128 stitches.

Knit one row.

*K6, K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 112 stitches.

Knit one row.

*K5, K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 96 stitches

Knit one row.

*K4, K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 80 stitches

Knit one row.

*K3, K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 64 stitches

Knit one row.

*K2, K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 48 stitches.

Knit one row.

Switch to double pointed needles when circular needles become difficult to manage.

*K1, K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 32 stitches

Knit one row.

*K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 16 stitches

Knit one row.

*K2tog. Repeat from * to end of row. 8 stitches

Finishing: Break yarn with a long tail and string through remaining stitches. Weave in loose ends

**I'm not addicted to knitting,
I can stop after just one more row.**

Simple Knit Hat

by Susan Charrette

The easiest way to knit a hat is on 16" circular needles. The pattern below is for a child, knit on worsted weight wool with size 8 needles. To

make a hat for a woman, add 8 stitches to the cast on (80 stitches) and knit until the hat measures 6 1/2" before decreasing for the crown. You

can alter the rim by knitting garter stitch for a few inches (on circular needles, knit one round, purl the next).

Child's Hat

CO 72 stitches

Knit in stockinette st (knit every round) until hat measures 5 3/4" from beginning

Decrease for crown as follows:

Rnd 1: *K6, k2tog; repeat from * to end (63 stitches)

Rnd 2: Knit every even round

Rnd 3: *K5, k2tog; repeat from * to end (54)

Rnds 4-6: Knit

Rnd 7: *K4, k2tog; repeat from * to end (45)

Rnd 9: *K3, k2tog; repeat from * to end (36)

Rnd 11: *K2, k2tog; repeat from * to end (27)

Rnd 13: *K1 k2tog; repeat from * to end (18 stitches)

Break yarn leaving a 6" tail and draw yarn through remaining stitches. Weave in ends.

Rustic Diamond Crochet Scarf Pattern

July 20, 2018 hookedforlifepublishing@gmail.com

Finished Size: 10" wide x 72" long or desired length (you can probably go up to 108" or so before you rung out of yarn!)

Materials: 2 skeins Premier Yarns Puzzle (bulky weight; 100% acrylic; 7 oz/328 yds)., Hook size K/10.5/6.5mm or size needed to obtain a pleasing fabric – gauge is not critical for this pattern.

Notes: Ch-3 counts as 1 dc throughout. It's important to keep the angled stitches on the RS of the work! Sometimes you will be working behind previously made stitches and sometimes in front but the angled stitches are ALWAYS on the RS.

Scarf: Ch 29.

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. Ch 3, turn. 28 sc

Row 2 (RS): (Sk next st, dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in skipped st keeping this angled stitch on RS of work, sk 2 sts, dc in next st, dc in each of 2 skipped sts working behind angled st so that stays on RS of work, dc in each of next 4 sts) 3 times; final rep ends with only 1 dc after the diamond. Ch 3, turn.

Row 3 (WS): (Sk 2 dc, dc in next dc, dc in each of 2 skipped dc working in front of angled st so that stays on RS of work, sk 1 dc, dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in skipped dc keeping this angled st on RS of work, dc in each of next 4 dc) 3 times; final rep ends with only 1 dc after the diamond. Ch 3, turn.

Rep Rows 2 – 3 for pattern until work measures 72" or desired length, ending with a WS row, and chaining 1 to turn after that last WS row.

Final Row: Sc in each st across. End off.

Finishing: Weave in all ends; block if desired. I didn't block it – I liked the elasticity of the fabric the way it was, and I didn't think it needed any side edging

Mosaic Gratitude Scarf

by Holly, September 3, 2020

The Mosaic Gratitude Scarf was inspired by Operation Gratitude's Clear Your Stash Challenge 2020. This bold scarf has just enough detail to be interesting, but is still simple enough to knit over and over.

Finished size: 4-6" wide, 48" long

Materials: Yarn: 125 (Color A); 50 yards (Color B), Needles: US #9/5.50 mm, Notions: finishing needle

Notes: Gauge: 12 sts x 18 rows = 4" x 4" in garter stitch

Abbreviations: BO – bind off, CO – cast on, gs – garter stitch, k – knit, RS – right side, sl – slip, st(s) – stitch(es), WS – wrong side, WS (above) and RS (below)

The pattern is worked back and forth down the length of the scarf.

Mosaic Notes

Mosaic designs are knit by changing colors at the end of every second row. You will only need to work with one yarn at a time.

Do not snip your yarn after a color change; instead, simply pick it up two rows later. It will fit neatly down the edge of your work.

When slipping stitches for mosaic knitting, always slip your right side stitches with yarn in back and always slip your wrong side stitches with yarn in front.

Setup: Using (Color A), CO 195 sts., Knit 1 row.

Mosaic Knit

Row 1 (on RS with (Color B) – k4 *sl1, k11* to last 2 sts, sl1, k1

Row 2 and all other even rows – with the same color as the previous row, knit all stitches that were knit on the previous row and slip all stitches that were slipped on the previous row

Row 3 (Color A) – k4 *(sl1, k1) 3 times, sl1, k5* to last 10 sts, (sl1, k1) three times, k4

Row 5 (Color B) – k3 *sl1, k7, sl1, k3*

Row 7 (Color A) – k2 *sl1, k3, sl1, k1* to the last st, k1

Row 9 (Color B) – k5 *sl1, k3, sl1, k7* to last 10 sts, sl1, k3, sl1, k5

Row 11 (Color A) – k2 *sl1, k1, sl1, k5, (sl1, k1) two times* to last st, k1

Row 13 (Color B) – k7 *sl1, k11* to last 8 sts, sl1, k7

Change to (Color A) and work in gs until scarf reaches 5" or desired width.

Finishing :BO all sts. Weave in ends. Block if desired.

Variations: Make it your own! The mosaic effect is quite different when the brighter, lighter color is used as Color A than when used as Color B.

Mandala Skinny Scarf Crochet Pattern

By Sara Sach of Posh Pooch Designs

This Light Skinny Scarf is perfect for wearing on those cool morning outings, through the day, and also for an evening get together.

Skill: Easy

Materials: Crochet Hook – H/ 5.00Mm, Yarn- Light (3) – 4 to 5 oz depending how long you want the scarf, Yarn Needle
Stitches: Chain (ch); Double Crochet (dc); Skip (sk); Shell Stitch (shst) – 2 dc, ch2, 2dc in the same st

Notes: Ch3 counts as dc, Size: 6 X 68 Inches, 1 Row = 1 inch

To make the scarf wider is not a simple repeat. You need 5chs = 2 inches, +8 chs for the 2 shells which = 2 inches This is the section you will repeat in multiples of 8 chs, Then end with 7 chs bc we begin in the 4th ch from the hook.

Pattern:

R: 1 – Ch 20, dc in the 4th ch from the hook, 1 dc in each ch, turn, ch 3 (18dc)

R: 2 – Ch 3 counts as 1st dc, 1 dc in the next 4 dc, Sk next 2 dc, 2dc ch2 2dc in the next dc, sk next 2 dc, 2dc ch2 2dc in the next dc, sk next 2 dc, 1 dc in the last 5 dc, turn, ch 3 (5 dc, 2 shsts, 5 dc)

R: 3 - Ch 3 counts as 1st dc, 1 dc in the next 4 dc, Sk next 2 dc, 2dc ch2 2dc in the ch2 sp in the center of the next shst, sk next 2 dc, 2dc ch2 2dc in the ch2 sp in the center of the next shst, sk next 2 dc, 1 dc in the last 5 dc, turn, ch 3 (5 dc, 2 shsts, 5 dc)

R: 4 – R: 67 – Repeat R: 3

R: 68 - 1 dc in each dc,

Tie off and weave in your ends.

The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant



"That one? That's your P-100 industrial hook, used mostly for crocheting chainlink fences, mesh grill tops, that sort of thing."



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!