

# Yarns 'n Prayers



## St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry

News from the 4th Quarter, 2023

**"Knitting is a boon for those of us who are easily bored. I take my knitting everywhere to take the edge off of moments that would otherwise drive me stark raving mad."**

~Stephanie Pearl-McPhee

### Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting dates in 2024

The 2nd Monday of each month

1st Qtr • Feb. 12, Mar. 11

2nd Qtr • Apr. 8, May 13, Jun. 10

3rd Qtr • Jul. 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9

4th Qtr • Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

To confirm a particular meeting date, contact Paul Joseph Schleitwiler, FCM at [pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com](mailto:pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com)

### How Far Is Our Outreach?

Margie Rudnik traveled to Honduras to visit missions there. She said the trip was eye-opening and educational. She was able to present a prayer shawl to Mercy Sister Sandra who runs an orphanage which was originally for children testing positive to HIV. It is now open to children without a home. She knew exactly what she was going to do with it. Sister Sandra had requested children's vitamins so Margie carried all she could. Mercy people from the national office had 2 huge suitcases of vitamins to present. Margie also had dinner with the Mercy Associates in Honduras and presented each with a mini prayer shawl. There are now 20 Associates there and 12 more in formation.

### Statistics for the Quarter

We all participate in this ministry whether we make something or just pray for those in need. We are praying for all those people who have received a shawl, a blanket, a blessing square or other item our crafters have made. Crafters made 57 shawls, 3 blankets, plus hats and many scarves this quarter. One was made by Mary Ann Readon, who mailed it to us from Oyster Bay, NY. People in need of our prayers received 62 shawls and many scarves. Recipients ranged from people from our parish to people in other continents.

### 1- Do you know someone in need of our community's prayers?

You may not be able to make things to carry our prayers to those in need, but, if you know of someone who needs our prayers, you can get a shawl, blanket or other item from the Parish Center and give it to that person. If you can't physically do that, call the Parish Center with your information about where and to whom and why to send something and ask that it be passed to some one of us who can do it.

### 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 or sew or weave and 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](mailto:pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com)

### What More Can I Do?

Your prayers for those who receive these tangible signs of our care and God's love are the heart of this ministry.

**Page 2 - Who We Are Praying For**

**Page 3 - Lacy Summer Throw Free Knitting Pattern**

**Page 4 - Bruges Lace Shawl crochet pattern**

**Page 5 - Thank You from Recipients & Blessing**

## Who We Are Praying For

a friend with a blood condition  
another friend  
a parishioner on the death of her husband  
a woman whose brother died  
a woman due to back surgery  
12 people at Ascension for the Anointing mass on Oct 21/22.  
a woman with breast cancer  
a woman who is in hospice  
a woman whose husband died  
a woman for illness.  
a woman diagnosed with MS  
a woman in the ICU  
a woman with cancer  
a woman whose mom passed away  
a woman who grew up in St Giles community, recovering from surgery  
a friend who has cancer  
a new youth minister  
a woman whose 2 brothers were in an accident where one died  
a friend's mother who had a stroke  
a woman who has breast cancer.  
the homeless who are served by Night Ministry and by the French nuns  
several people served by the Quinn Center  
several students at an inner-city school in Chicago  
a woman for surgery  
two women in the hospital  
a neighbor with cancer  
a friend with overall health problems  
a neighbor with back conditions and pain  
a woman with back and eye problems  
a grandmother with cancer  
a woman with brain cancer  
a woman who lost her daughter  
a man with ulcerative colitis  
a couple with brain cancer  
a woman with advanced dementia  
and her best friend  
a woman with breast cancer  
a man with cancer  
an ill friend  
a woman with pancreatic cancer  
a woman with breast cancer  
a woman for her mother's surgery  
a man for surgery



## Thank you for your prayers

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. It will be with me at the hospital and through my healing journey. I so appreciate the thoughts and prayers that went with it. Love, Donna

Nancy,

I am writing this note with a beautiful shawl around my shoulders. What a wonderful surprise when my husband came in with this special gift! How thoughtful of you to think of me. Thank you!

I am going through this journey knowing God is with me. You are a reminder of that. God bless! Thanks again. Vicki Y.

## If you knit, crochet, sew or weave join us in the Prayer Shawl ministry.

Currently crafters are making shawls and lap blankets by knitting or crocheting but if you quilt or weave, you could also contribute blankets and shawls.





**When you have finished a project, the leftover yarn can be used to make blessing squares.**

## Lacy Summer Throw Free Knitting Pattern

Skill level: Beginner

Gauge: 10 sts by 20 rows = 4 in (10 cm) in pattern stitch.

Stitches used and abbreviations:

CO = Cast on; K = Knit; YO = Yarn over; SSK = Slip slip knit; St = Stitch(es)

Finished Measurement: Approx. 50 in by 60 in. (127 cm by 153 cm) After wet blocking.

Yarn: 197 yards [180 m]/ 200 gr [7 oz] (7 balls) = 1379 yards (1260 meters) [yardage may vary depending on your gauge and yarn used.]

Needle: US #11 (8.00 mm) (Circular needles are preferred to accommodate large number of stitches)

Other Materials: Yarn needle (to sew edges, weave in ends, and sew zipper)

Pattern notes:

Make sure to wet block your throw to straighten up the edges.

The pattern calls for a ssk decrease, but you can substitute it with a k2tog if that is easier for you.

The patterns offers the total amount of pattern repeats necessary to obtain a throw measuring 50" by 60" (if you obtained gauge), but you could easily adapt it by working more or less repeats, until you reach your desired measurement.

This pattern has no wrong side/right side, is reversible.

Pattern Begins:

CO 125 sts.

Rows 1 to 4: Knit.

Row 5: K2, \*Yo, ssk. Repeat from \* to last st, K1.

Row 6: Knit.

Row 7: K2, \*Yo, ssk. Repeat from \* to last st, K1.

Row 8: Knit.

Row 9: K2, \*Yo, ssk. Repeat from \* to last st, K1.

Row 10: Knit.

Rows 11 to 14: Knit.

Rows 15 to 304: Repeat rows [5 to 14] 30 more times.

Bind Off.

Wet block to measurements, taking special care to straighten up the edges.

## There's more to the history of knitting in the Yorkshire Dales than you might think....

In the 1800s, the people who used to knit were old when they were in their 30s. They were poor. Men used to knit when they walked to the lead mines. If they were walking three or four miles, they knitted. And they got to the mines, and there'd be a shed where they'd put their knitting sticks and wool and go down the mines and come back and knit all the way back home.

**Image courtesy of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Dales Countryside Museum.**



## Bruges Lace Shawl

Bruges Lace is a type of bobbin lace that originated from the city of Bruges, Belgium. It's sometimes known as Brussels lace or Belgian lace. The lace was originally made using ribbons and tapes and had nothing in common with crochet lace, but over the years the technique was adapted for crochet. This pattern uses two basic Bruges Lace techniques to produce this beautiful shawl. It might not be the best pattern for a beginning crocheter, but it's a good starting point to learn Bruges Lace.

Size: Width - 86" (218 cm), depth - 31" (78 cm)

Materials: fingering weight yarn 2045 yards (1870 meters) / 500 gr

Hook: D (3.25 mm)

Gauge is not important.

Directions

Basic tape

Basic Bruges Tape row: ch 6, 4 dc over the 4 dc of the previous row, turn.

Repeat to desired length. Tie off.

Joining to another tape

Row 1: ch 3, slip st to the corresponding 6-chain loop of other tape, ch 3, 4 dc over 4 dc of the previous row, turn.

Row 2: ch 6, 4 dc over 4 dc of the previous row, turn.

Repeat to desired length.

180 degree tape turn (consists of 7 rows)

The 1st row starts at the inner edge of the turn.

Row 1: ch 6, 1 sc, 1 hdc, 2 dc, turn

Row 2: ch 6, 2 dc, 1 hdc, 1 sc, turn

Rows 3-6: repeat rows 1-2.

Row 7: ch 3, sl st through the 3 inner loops, 1 sc, 1 hdc, 2 dc, turn.

Directions

The shawl consists essentially of one long, continuous tape that doubles back on itself with

180-degree turns. The lengths of tape first increase, then decrease to produce a triangular shape.

Chain 10

Row 1: sc in to the 7th chain from the hook, 1 hdc, 2 dc, turn

Row 2: ch 6, 2 dc, 1 hdc, 1 sc, turn

Row 3: ch 6, 1 sc, 1 hdc, 2 dc, turn

Rows 4-15: repeat rows 2 and 3.

Row 15: ch 3, sl st into the inner loops of all previous rows, ch 3, 1 sc, 1 hdc, 2 dc, turn

Row 16: ch 6, 4 dc (basic unit of Bruges Tape, see above)

Row 17: ch 3, slip st to the hdc of the 1st row, ch 3, 4 dc over 4 dc of the previous row, turn.

Rows 18-24: 180 degree tape turn (see above)



Row 19: ch 3, slip st to the second dc of the 1st row, ch 3, 2 dc, 1 hdc, 1 sc, turn

Rows 25-32: basic tape, joining to the 2 loops of in previous length of tape in rows 26 and 28 (see diagram)

Rows 33-39: 180 degree tape turn.

Rows 40-47: basic tape, joining to the 5 loops of the straight part of the tape, before the last turn.

Rows 48-54: 180 degree tape turn.

Rows 55-68: basic tape

Rows: 69-75: 180 degree tape turn.

Rows 76-89: basic tape.

Continue to work this way, crocheting 6 additional rows in every odd length of tape. The 16th odd tape will be the longest. Work the next odd tape 6 rows shorter. Continue to shorten each odd tape.

After 31st even tape:

Row 1: ch 6, 1 sc, 1 hdc, 2 dc, turn

Row 2: ch 6, 2 dc, 1 hdc, 1 sc, turn

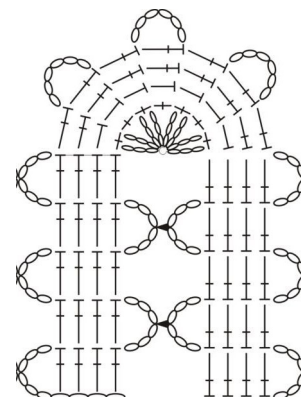
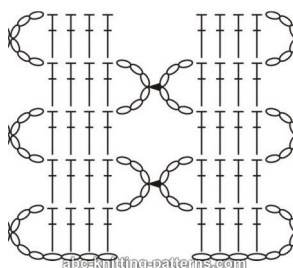
Rows 3-14: repeat rows 1 and 2

Row 15: ch 3, sl st through all inner loops of turn, ch 3, 1 sc, 1 hdc, 2 dc.

Tie off.

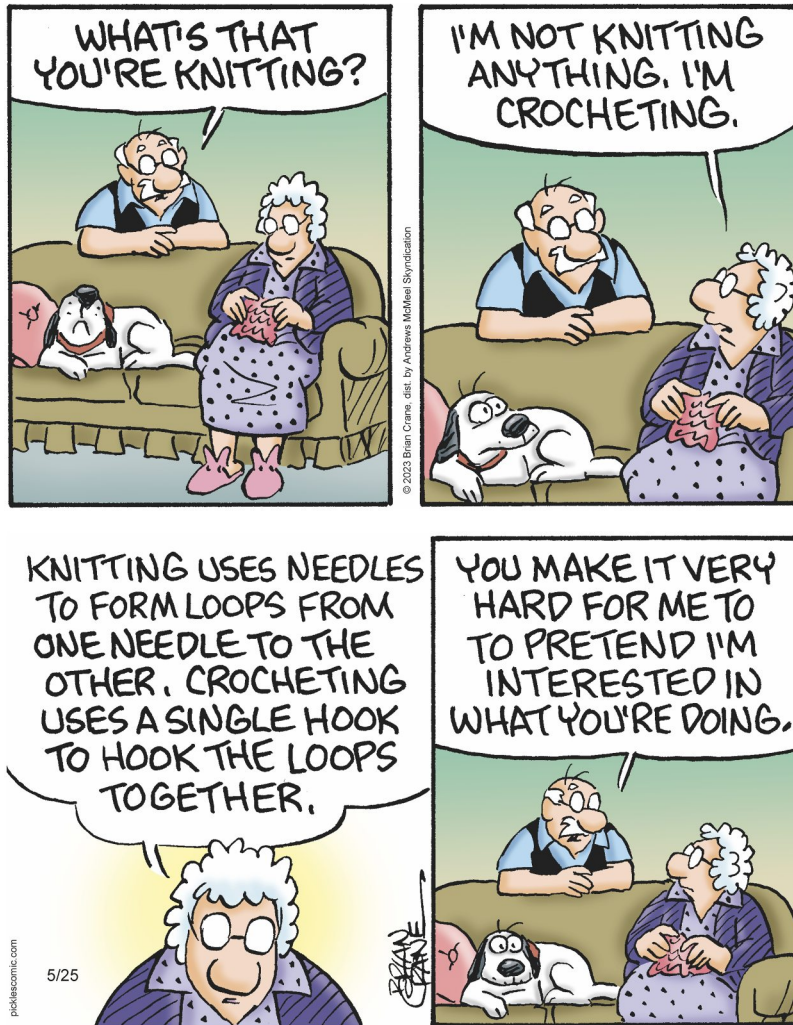
Finishing

Block the shawl.





© Brian Crane.



### 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!