

# Yarns 'n Prayers

## St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry



### News from the 2nd 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)

### A Guide to Shawl Shapes and Sizes

Circle = 40 inches (102 cm)  
(worn folded in half)

Square = 48 to 60 in (122 to 153 cm)  
(folded to triangle or rectangle)

Triangle = 48 to 72 in (122 to 183 cm)

Rectangle = 72 to 80 in (183 to 206 cm) long  
18 to 20 in (46 to 51 cm) wide

Wrap = 66 to 72 in (168 to 183 cm) long  
24 to 30 in (61 to 77 cm) wide

### A Thank You

"I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful prayer shawl. It is all of my favorite colors, it's so cozy and I wrap myself to sleep in it nightly. Most of all, I can feel all of the prayers and healing vibes from it. It is the most beautiful and thoughtful gift!"

### Statistics for the Quarter

Members in this ministry made and submitted thirty-two shawls and lap blankets this quarter and twenty-one shawls and lap blankets went to people in need of our prayers. We were joined by one new member.

### Who are We Praying for?

- A woman with a 25 year old adopted son dying of leukemia. He and his adopted sister had AIDS as infants but were treated and cleared of AIDS. Last year he was diagnosed with leukemia which went into remission. It came back a week before his mother was given the shawl. He died a few days after she received it.
- A prayer shawl was given to a woman whose son was detained by ICE. All his papers were received and they were waiting for a visa. The woman is providing for family members in her son's absence.
- One shawl went to a newlywed couple. You married people know why we pray for joyous occasions as well.

### A Thank You from Fr. Ed Salmon

"My Dear Friends,

Thanks so much for the lovely prayer shawl.  
And most of all for all your prayers and support.

Keep the prayers coming since it seems more surgery may be imminent.

Very discouraging.

Your *old* friend,"

Father Ed

### And Another Thank You

"The beautiful prayer shawl that you prepared for me is so lovely and I am filled with gratitude. I truly do feel surrounded by God's love when I put it around my shoulders. When I'm in pain, it helps me know I am never alone. I know that you are holding me in your hearts and I feel so humble and loved. Thank you."

### Summer Break

We are taking a break from meetings for the summer. Our next meeting will be the second Monday of September, the 9th, at 1PM in the Parish Center. You are welcome to join us.

Knitters and crocheters are very committed to their craft.  
They all have some skein in the game.

## Why did I join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

I love everything about knitting.

I love thinking about it, taking favorite patterns and changing them.

I love doing it. Feeling the yarn pull through my fingers.

I love looking at the yarn in the sunlight and seeing the beautiful colors.

I love the feel of the yarn. Soft, fuzzy, warm, heavy.

I love the almost limitless things to be done: adding Morse code messages in the stitches, the I-cord (or Idiot-cord, named by a young male knitter), felting which makes it almost waterproof, and lots of stuff I haven't tried and probably won't. All available on YouTube.

I love the peace and joy it gives me.

Thank you to Annette Hulefeld and Madonna Leen who introduced me and many others to this ministry. Teaching us that we could take this beautiful and spiritual practice that allows us to surround those who are suffering or those celebrating with a creation that we have made hand in hand with God.

Thank you for this ministry that allows me to feel part of the flow of love that is the Blessed Trinity.

Thank you for the other Prayer Shawl Ministers who are a constant source of amazement as they take crazy colors and yarns and create shawls of absolute beauty.

That is why I joined the St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry.

~ Margie Rudnik

### Vertical Lines Prayer Shawl

SIZE 19" x 65" (48cm x 165cm)

#### MATERIALS

Plymouth Hot Cakes: Color 6 Pastel Mix—2 cakes

Needle: US size 9 (5.5mm) 24" circular needle or size to obtain gauge

Notions: Two stitch markers

GAUGE 16 sts = 4" (10.2cm) in St st on US Size 9 needles.

ABBREVIATIONS: k = knit; p = purl; RS = right side; st(s) = stitch(es)

STITCH GUIDE Seed Stitch Pattern: Row 1: \*(P1, k1); repeat from \* to last st, end p1. Repeat Row 1 for all rows.

#### DIRECTIONS

Loosely cast on 79 sts.

Work 10 rows in Seed Stitch Pattern.

Begin body of blanket as follows:

Row 1 (RS): Work first 10 sts in Seed Stitch, place marker, knit across to last 10 sts, place marker, work last 10 sts in Seed Stitch.

Row 2: Work first 10 sts in Seed Stitch, slip marker, \*(p4, k1); repeat from \* to last 4 sts before next marker, p4, slip marker, work last 10 stitches in Seed Stitch.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 until piece measures approximately 63" (160cm) from cast on edge, or desired length, ending with Row 2.

Work 10 rows Seed Stitch. Bind off loosely in seed stitch pattern. Weave in all ends.

### An Easy Crochet Shawl

Required amount of yarn depends on yarn and hook size, usually 2 to 4 skeins

Start with magic ring (or chain 7, slip stitch to 1st ch st)

row 1 - ch 3, 4 dc, ch2, 5dc (you can now pull ring tight)

row 2 - Ch3, dc in first st (counts as 2 dc in first st), dc in each dc to center chain, (dc, ch2,dc) in center chain, dc in each dc to last st, 2 dc in ch3 from previous row

Repeat row 2 until triangular shawl is desired length.

Each row increases by 2 stitches on each side of center.

With chunky yarn and big hook, it works up very fast. Whatever size hook and yarn, it makes a fabric with soft drape and a warm hug.

### 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!