

Yarns 'n Prayers



St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry

News from the 2nd 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. 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

Erika Wright 1932 - 2021

One of our crafters for the last few years, Erika knitted and crocheted shawls and blankets as one of the ministries she supported. She was involved with several churches, the St. Martin de Porres house, the African American community of her Austin neighborhood, religious communities and the Mercy Home for Girls. She got us making things for the Mercy Home girls. Born and raised a Catholic in Eussenheim, Germany, she never wavered in her faith. Others were stubborn but she was determined.

Her first job was with the Eussenheim post office and she never stopped working until near death. That included 35 years working nights with Walgreen's Photo Studio. An avid reader, she earned a GED as an adult and got a driver's license at forty-four. She purchased her own home in the Austin area in 1976.

She married Aaron Wright in 1957 and came to the USA in 1959. In ten years they had eight children, who gave them sixteen grandchildren, who, in turn, have produced ten great grandchildren. That's why she needed a license to drive.

She liked Bible study, pets, Bingo, playing cards, cooking and people. To her German cuisine she added soul food and her greens were legendary. She loved feeding people. Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit, Frau Erika!



Erika Wright with headbands and purses for Mercy Home girls.

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.

We are not meeting in July.

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

This quarter, the crafters made thirty-two shawls, twenty-three blankets and thirteen scarves. Almost half the shawls were made by Annette Hulefeld. She is sending them to people in need as soon as she knits them.

Twenty-three shawls, two blankets and four scarves went to people we are praying for.

Knitting Litany

~ Cory Wade

Most agitated hands, be my salvation.
Most restless eye, look only here.
Most anxious heart, trust this singular fact:
something can come of nothing.
The miracle turns on every stitch:
with every whispered row,
leaves, waves, flowers and stars
drop from my fingertips.
In this, the crest of a wave, my heart
rises up and drops as I roll the wave.
Row after row I make the wave,
rising and dropping stitch after stitch;
there is no end to the waves,
to the world in my hands:
cockle shell, wolf's claw, wasp nest, bear's paw,
apple leaf, lamb's lettuce, pine tree, gull wing,
honeycomb, cloud and mountain, four sisters,
frost flowers, summer fountain, hyacinth,
sycamore, granite laurel, lynx eye,
drooping elm, wheat germ, cakes and waffle,
clover leaf, blue bell, bell rib, banana tree,
ant egg, beehive, lady's lace and willow bed,
per omnia saecula saeculorum.
These are the prayers I say these days.
A simple co-creator, I trust in simple decorum.
Wanting something to come of nothing,
I make only slight demands:
Let starfish, berries, and foxglove
fall now from my hands.

Thank You from a Woman Whose Husband Had a Severe Heart Attack

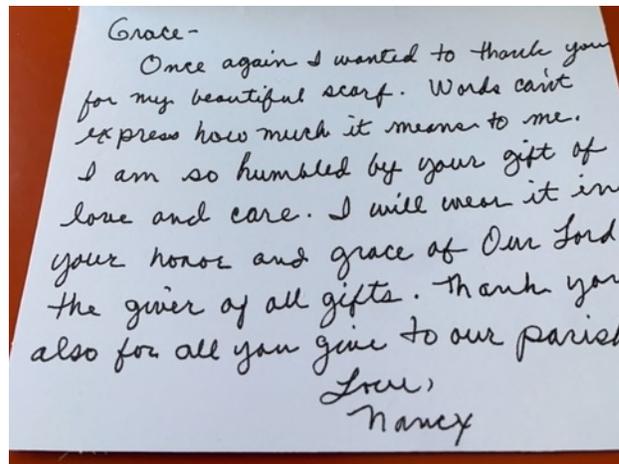
Hi Nancy,
I want to thank you for the lovely prayer shawl you gave me. It's given me a lot of comfort during these many stressful weeks. There were many times when we weren't sure that Butch would survive some of the setbacks he went through.
I found the shawl a great soother; at the worst of times I wrapped it snugly around me for comfort. It's almost as though I could feel the prayers. And, I've been blessed to have found a friend like you; your friendship has helped me get through these tough times. Thank you.

(Butch has also received a blanket)

I am not self medicating with yarn. I have a prescription from the yarn store. The nice lady at the checkout printed it for me.

Who Are We Praying For?

Mary Schmidt's sister's friend who has lung cancer.
Charlotte Walsh, hip fracture
Domi Gonzalez-Prus, cancer
Mary and John, friends of Margie Rudnik. John is suffering from dementia, Mary is caring for him.
Bob Ebert, surgery, given to Linda Sahagian Stewart.
Mary Tagler on the death of her mother
Judy Humowiecki's sister who is on dialysis
Karen, a friend, as she deals with her fears concerning her grandson's epilepsy.
A friend's husband recovering from heart attack.
Triss who needs a liver transplant
Natalie, Redmond Oregon, Rheumatoid Arthritis - late 40's- well known healer
Laura Keffer - just delivered her third child
A parishioner who delivered her baby very prematurely - his name is Leonardo
Chris Lucien's friend who just lost her husband
Bridget Steed in Oregon, Bob and Judy's daughter with auto-immune health concerns
David in Florida, friend of the Steeds who is mourning and depressed after recent death of wife
Joseph Johnson in Boston, kidney donor (my brother) still having difficult recovery from donation surgery
Nevine Forde, a woman from Jamaica, West Indies A shawl was mailed February 25.
Nate – grandpa in hospice
Jason – father-in-law in hospice
Brenden – dad in hospice, now passed
Sara – father passed
TJ – mother in hospice
Sara's mom – husband passed
Susan – ex-husband and brother passed
Mark – brother passed
Marion Sheehan – picked up a shawl but did not indicate who it is for
Susan Brownell mailed a shawl
Grace gave a scarf to a woman who had knee surgery
Grace another scarf to go to a woman whose family is moving
Linda – husband died of brain tumor
Laura – father died
Dianna – father died
Bob and Marieta – lymphoma and Covid
Anne – 2 pets died recently and caring for mother with dementia
Teenager who is struggling in school
Friend of Annette's who has lymphoma and Covid
Lucia in Italy. She sent a donation and we are very grateful for that. She still needs prayers



Another Thank You

Dearest Grace,

What a wonderful surprise I received this morning at Mass! Thank you ever so much for the beautiful scarf! The pastel colors are some of my favorites. Your lovely handmade scarf will keep my neck so toasty warm in the cooler weather. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are deeply appreciated and will always be remembered each and every time I wear the scarf. My morning was not going well today and your special gift brightened up my spirit. Thank you ever so much!

Love, hugs and blessings,

Donna

Blessings Ombre Shawl Crochet Pattern

By Sara Sach

Skill: Easy

Materials: Crochet Hook: US I - 5.50mm; Yarn: Worsted Weight (4) 12 oz. / 1020 yds. I used Caron Simply soft - Gold Ombre' - 5 skeins

Stitches: Chain (ch); Slip Stitch (slst); Double Crochet (dc); Skip (sk); Picot Stitch (pctst) ch4, slst in the top of the previous st.

Size : Width - 60 inches, length - 40 inches

Notes: Each row will increase by 6 stitches. Ch 3 at beginning of rows counts as 1 dc.

Pattern:

R : 1 - Ch 3, join in a circle, 5dc, ch 2, 5dc in the circle, Turn (10 dc, 2ch)

R : 2 - Ch 3(counts as 1 dc) 1 dc in the same st as ch3, 1 dc in each dc, 2dc, ch 2, 2dc in the ch2 space, 1 dc in each dc, 2dc in the last dc, Turn

R : 3 - (Open row) Ch3, 1 dc in the same st, *ch1, sk1 st, 1 dc in the next st* Repeat From * to * across to the corner, 2dc, ch2, 2dc in the corner, Repeat From * to * to the last dc, 2 dc in the last dc, turn.

R : 4 - Repeat R : 2,

R : 5 - Repeat R : 2

R : 6 - (Cross stitch row) Ch3, 1 dc in the same st, *Sk the next st, dc in the next st, cross back and dc in the sk st* Repeat From * to * across to the corner, 2dc, ch2, 2dc in the corner, Repeat From * to * to the last dc, 2 dc in the last dc, turn.

R : 7 - Repeat R : 2

R : 8 - Repeat R : 2

R : 9 - (Open row) Ch3, 1 dc in the same st, *ch1, sk1 st, 1 dc in the next st* Repeat From * to * across to the corner, 2dc, ch2, 2dc in the corner, Repeat From * to * to the last dc, 2 dc in the last dc, turn.

Repeat R : 4 - R : 9, 5 more times

Repeat R 2, 2 more times.

Trim -

TR : 1 - 1 dc, ch1, 1 dc in the 1st dc, *Ch4, sk 3 sts, dc, ch2, dc in the next st* Repeat From * to * till you reach the point, 2dc, ch2, 2dc in the point, Repeat From * to * till you reach the last dc, dc, ch1, dc in the last dc, Turn

TR : 2 - 2 dc, ch2, 2 dc in the 1st dc, *ch4, 2dc, ch2, 2dc in the next ch2 space, ch 4* Repeat from * to * till you reach the point, 2dc, ch2, 2dc in the point, Repeat From * to * till you reach the last dc, 2dc, ch1, 2dc in the last dc, Turn

TR : 3 - 2 dc, Pctst, 2 dc in the 1st dc, *ch4, 2dc, pctst, 2dc in the next ch2 space, ch 4* Repeat from * to * till you reach the point, 2dc, Pctst, 2dc in the point, Repeat From * to * till you reach the last dc, 2dc, Pctst, 2dc in the last dc, Turn, sc evenly across the top edge of the Shawl.

Turn and repeat sc back across the top, for a nice finished edge.

Tie off and weave in your ends

Basketweave Baby Blanket

Difficulty level: ** Easy

This baby blanket features the Rib and Garter pattern, which gives it the distinctive basketweave texture. The pattern naturally creates a scalloped edge, so there is no need to worry about borders!

Skills Required/Techniques Used:

- Knit & purl, cast on & bind off
- Knit and purl through back loop

Finished measurements: 40" x 40" (100 cm x 100 cm)

Materials: Worsted weight yarn, approx. 1500 yds (1400 m)

Needles: circular needles US #7 (4.55 mm) OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE

Gauge: 16 sts x 20 rows = 4" x 4" (10 x 10 cm) in Rib and Garter pattern.

Notions: yarn needle

Abbreviations:

st, sts - stitch, stitches; k - knit; p - purl; k tbl – knit through back loop; p tbl – purl through back loop; RS - right side; WS - wrong side

Pattern Notes:

Selvedge stitches: the first and the last sts in each row are selvedge stitches, work them as follows: slip the first stitch knitwise and purl the last stitch in all rows except the very first one, in the first row knit the first st and purl the last one.

Short Overview of the Pattern:

The blanket is worked in the Rib and Garter pattern. The pattern forms scallop edges on all sides of the blanket, therefore there is no need for borders. To make a larger blanket, you can cast on more pattern repeats.

Blanket

Multiple of 16 plus 1 + 2 selvedge sts

Cast on 163 stitches. These include: 161 sts for 10 repeats of the pattern plus 1 and 2 selvedge sts.

Row 1 (RS): k1, [(k tbl, p1) 4 times, k tbl, p7] 9 times, (k tbl, p1) 4 times, k tbl, p7, k1, p1. 163 sts.

Row 2 (WS): sl, p8, (p tbl, k1) 4 times, p tbl, [p7, (p tbl, k1) 4 times, p tbl] 9 times, p1. 163 sts.

Row 3 (RS): sl, [(k tbl, p1) 4 times, k tbl, p7] 9 times, (k tbl, p1) 4 times, k tbl, p7, k1, p1. 163 sts.

Rows 4 - 7: repeat rows 2 - 3.

Row 8 (WS): repeat row 2. 163 sts.

Row 9 (RS): sl, [k1, p7, (k tbl, p1) 4 times] 9 times, k tbl, p7, (k tbl, p1) 5 times. 163 sts.

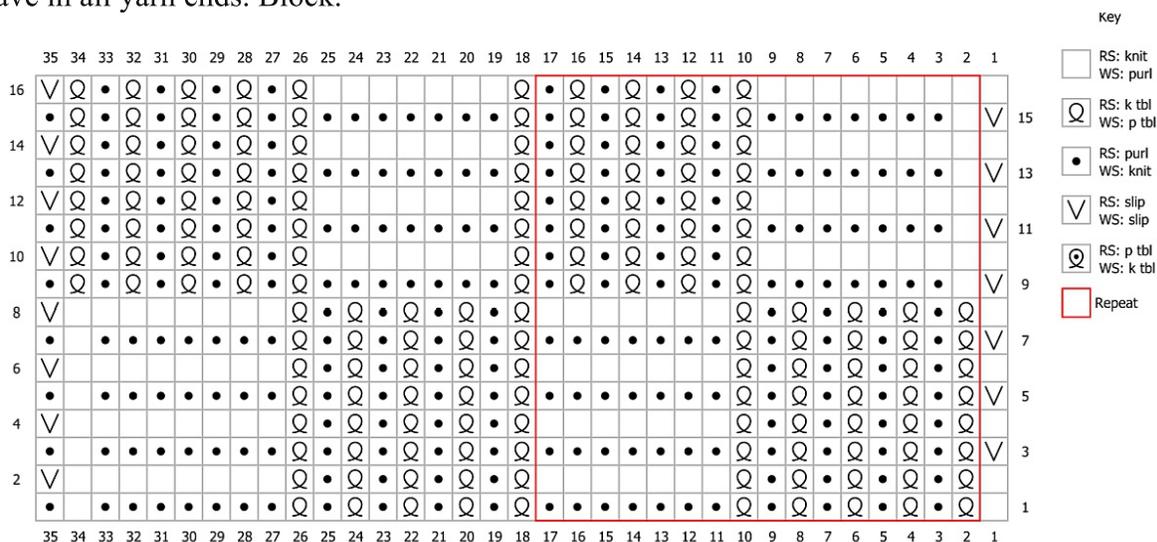
Row 10 (WS): sl wyif, (p tbl, k1) 4 times, p tbl, p7, p tbl, [(k1, p tbl) 4 times, p8] 9 times, p1. 163 sts.

Rows 11 - 16: repeat rows 9 - 10.

Repeat rows 1-16 13 times or to desired length.

Bind off.

Finishing: Weave in all yarn ends. Block.



Basketweave Baby Blanket diagram

Grace

THANK YOU

You do such a
 keep + blessing. Thank
 you for driving to
 church on many occasions
 and for the lovely shawl.
 It helps me stay warm
 as I work on feet. Hugs +
 prayers! Tatia



Thank You for a Blessing Square

I want to share with you that your knitted pocket prayer shawl comforted me and I sent it to my Mom. She wears it under her nightgown near her shoulder. My sister reads the prayer to her often. THANK YOU for all you do for so many people. Betty

Tues., April 20, 2021

Dear St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry, especially Annette, who sent the card + shawl, and Janet, who handknit the prayer shawl,

Thank you so much for thinking of my mother, Kay Brzyski Groszek O'Brien, during her time of illness and subsequent death. She used her prayer shawl for the last few weeks of her life + was covered with its comfort during the last minutes + hours of her life. As she was dying, I was saying the Rosary with her with the prayer shawl underneath our hands. It brought her comfort, as well as me, during her slow passing. I continue to wrap myself with her prayer shawl while I am praying the Rosary + reading Scripture. It brings me comfort knowing that it was keeping her wrapped in God's loving arms while she was entering His kingdom. Thank you again for your loving gesture of kindness, Diane Groszek
 Niece of Ted Brzyski + Margaret

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!