

Yarns 'n Prayers

St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry

News from the 2nd Quarter, 2022



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

One who sleeps under a crocheted blanket is cradled in love.



Thank you for all your prayers for my grandniece Stella Grace. She is doing well, though we won't know the long-term effects of her troubling birth process for months and years. For now she is alert, eating, and even smiling—all of which bode well. Your prayers mean so much to our family. My sister sends her gratitude for the prayer shawl, which comforts her with the thought of your continued prayers. A photo of Stella Grace is attached.

Warmly,

Kathy Flanagan

What More Can I Do?

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 one of us who can do it.

Dear Kathy & Friends,
Thank you for the thoughtful prayer shawl. Every time I'm in prayer at home I use the shawl and can feel the support of all the prayers sent while it was being made.
Love,
Barb & Glenn

Who Else Are We Praying For

In addition to those we are already praying for, there are added this quarter:

One for a woman whose husband died
A woman who is going through a divorce
A woman whose son has a brain tumor
A woman who is struggling to keep her business afloat in Canada
A baby girl injured at birth
A woman in WI for true healing
immigrants at the border
Three women with cancer
The niece of a community member
A man whose wife died
A man who had surgery,
A woman who was in the hospital
A woman who fell and had multiple injuries
A woman who lost her partner
A community member for her surgery
Three teen leaders graduating
Two friends who lost their jobs
A friend whose father has Alzheimer's
A woman who lost her husband
A man for strength and hope during chemo treatment.
A woman who is 93 years old, entering a nursing home and has dementia.
A woman to grieve her sister's death,
A woman who is in hospice with lung cancer
A woman whose mother died of a brain tumor

Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting dates in 2022

The 2nd Monday of each month

3rd Qtr Sep. 12

4th Qtr Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12

To confirm a particular meeting date, contact
Paul Joseph Schleitwiler, FCM
at pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com

Statistics for the Quarter

Our records indicate that crafting members in this ministry made and submitted 34 shawls, 12 blankets, 4 scarves, 5 hats and 7 blessing squares this quarter.

People in need of our prayers received 36 shawls and 1 blessing square.

The total number of people reached by our prayers and whom we continue to pray for keeps growing. The thanks we have received show how our prayers have been welcomed. Even those who do not make something add their prayers to this ministry we all share.

Dear Charlotte,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful, prayerful gift of your time, talent and loving concern. Your shawl has warmed my shoulders physically and spiritually before and after the surgery. You'll be happy to know I'm recovering well, getting stronger every day.

With a grateful heart and a prayer for you and your loved ones.
Steve Hazard

2.7.22

Dear Charlotte -

Steve Hummivachi
brought you lovely prayer
shawl to us before my
husband's head procedure.

We so appreciate each
stitch - each prayer!
Plus it's beautiful!

Many Thanks - God
bless you,
Mary Jo Hazard

Hopeful Prayer Shawl

Skill Level:

Size: 20" x 60"

Materials: 1400 yards worsted weight yarn or 700 yards chunky weight yarn

Needles: US #13-24" circular needle

Notions: Right side marker, tapestry needle

Gauge: 12 stitches = 4" in garter stitch (knit every row) 10.75 stitches = 4" in pattern stitch

Abbreviations:

k = knit

k2tog = knit two stitches together by working two stitches instead of one

p = purl

ssk = slip the first stitch as if to knit, slip the second stitch as if to knit, then slide the left-hand needle into the front part of both stitches and knit them together.

yo = yarn over, bring yarn to front as if to purl

www.alicesembrace.org

Revised 4/29/2014



Note: If you are using worsted weight yarn you will be double stranding the yarn throughout the pattern. If using chunky yarn you will be using it single stranded throughout the pattern.

The Pattern:

Cast on 54 stitches

Starting Border: Knit 10 rows

Row 1: k5, *k2, p1, yo, ssk, p1; repeat from * until 7 stitches left, k7 (placing marker on this row to denote right side of prayer shawl)

Row 2: k5, *p2, k1; repeat from * until 4 stitches left, k4

Row 3: k5, *k2, p1, k2tog, yo, p1; repeat from * until 7 stitches left, k7

Row 4: k5, *p2, k1; repeat from * until 4 stitches left, k4

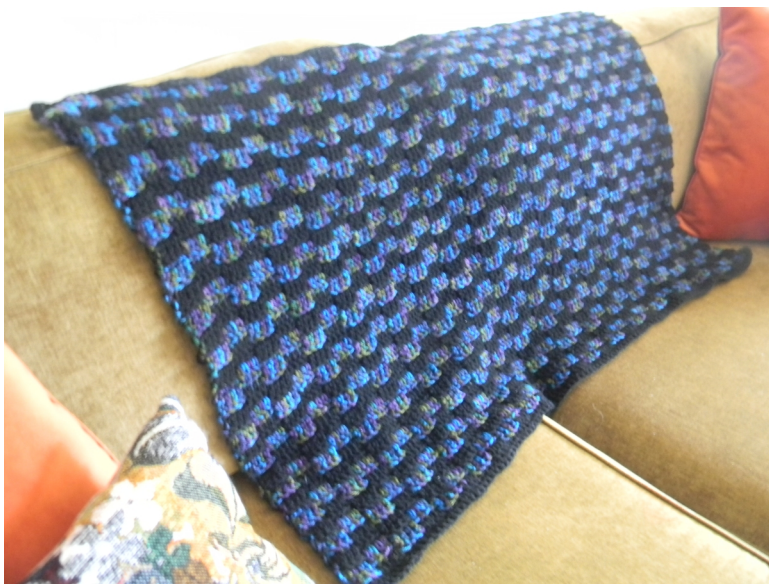
Repeat Rows 1-4 until prayer shawl measures around 58 inches from the cast on edge, after having just finished Row 4

Ending Border: Knit 10 rows

Finishing: Bind off

If I knit fast enough,
does it count as
aerobic activity?





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.

Rock the Block Pattern

What Size? First you need to decide what size of blanket you would like to make and make a note of the width and length.

What Pattern or How many Colors? Yep, you have to pick one of them. I know it can be difficult but decide if you want to use one color, 2 colors or more. Then decide if you want to make your blanket with a specific pattern (1 row repeats, 2 row repeats, random, etc.). Example pictured was done with two colors, changing on the odd rows.

Begin your Project:

Crochet a foundation row in multiples of 4 sc until the desired width is reached.

R1: Ch 1, sc in next 3 sts, [ch 2, skip next 2 sts, sc in next 2 sts], repeat [] until 5 sts remain, ch 2, skip next 2 sts, sc in next 3 sts, turn

R2: Ch 4 (counts as hdc + ch 2), skip next 3 sts, [dc in next 2 skipped sts from 2 rows prior, ch 2, skip next 2 sts], repeat [] to last st, hdc in last st, turn Note: Dc in this and following rows will be worked around/over the chain sp of the prior row, ch sp will be covered by the dc.

R3: Ch 2 (counts as a hdc), dc in next 2 skipped sts from 2 rows prior, [ch 2, skip next 2 sts, dc in next 2 skipped sts from 2 rows prior], repeat [] to last st, hdc in 2nd ch of beg ch, turn

Repeat R2 & R3 until desired length is reached

Final Row: Ch 1, sc in next 3 sts, [dc in next 2 skipped sts from 2 rows prior, sc in next 2 sts of current row], repeat [] to last st, sc in last st, fasten off and weave in all ends

Email 4-26-22

Susan,

Thank you very much for the prayer shawl. It is very beautiful. When I pray, I wrap it around my shoulders. I think of Jesus engulfing me with His love. It brings me joy that you sent me the prayer shawl. I send you that joy.

Hugs + Joy,
 Mary Ann

Jimmy is a young man from Uganda studying at Illinois Institute of Technology. He is far, far, away from home, and living in a metropolitan city like Chicago is quite a culture shock. Jimmy's father died in Uganda last fall. I crocheted a lap blanket for Jimmy using the colors for IIT - red and black. My husband and I, along with several others, are sponsoring this very promising young man. He is very grateful for our help, support, and guidance, so he refers to us as Papa Bob and Mama Nancy.

Here is the thank you note he wrote:

Hi mama Nancy,

I would like to say thank you so much for your gift of a lap blanket. It's so beautiful. I appreciate your holy and blessed heart.

Here is how I use the lap blanket;

When I'm reading, I put it on my lap.

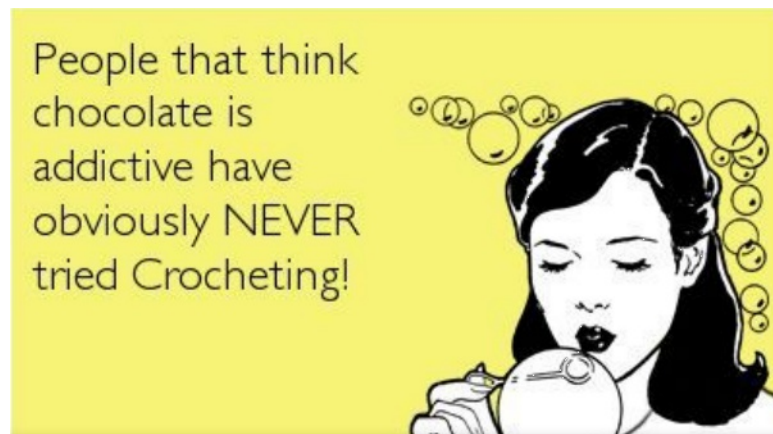
I cover myself with it when I'm sleeping.

I cover myself with it when I'm praying.

Thank you so much.

May you and your family continue being blessed, peaceful, successful and happy and may the lord God always protect and cover you with the Holy Spirit, Amen 🙏

Jimmy



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!