

Yarns 'n Prayers



St. Giles Prayer Shawl Ministry

News from the 1st Quarter, 2023

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

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.

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Statistics for the Quarter

Crafters made 26 shawls, 8 blankets and many blessing squares, 3 hats, and 19 scarves this quarter.

25 shawls/lap blankets received including a box of shawls found in the vestibule at church.

People in need of our prayers received 32 shawls, 6 blankets, all the hats, scarves and many blessing squares.

The total number of people reached by our prayers and for whom we continue to pray 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.

We Sent

2 crates of hats/scarves to the Columban Fathers in El Paso, TX

2 crates of hats/scarves to ICDI

1 crate of hats/scarves to A House in Austin

1 crate of hats/scarves to Holy Cross Hospital

We also shared a number of shawls and lap blankets with Ascension church for one of their healing masses.

Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting dates in 2023

The 2nd Monday of each month

1st Qtr Jan 9 Feb 13 Mar 13

2nd Qtr Apr 10 May 8 Jun 12

3rd Qtr Jul 10 Aug 14 Sep 11

4th Qtr Oct 9 Nov 13 Dec 11

To confirm a particular meeting date, contact

Paul Joseph Schleitwiler, FCM at

pjschleitwilerfcm@yahoo.com

Join the Prayer Shawl ministry.

It's like AA in some ways. We meet regularly to discuss how we have dealt with our addiction. We always have someone who will listen with sympathy and support who has shared our experience. We recognize fellow addicts and invite them to join us. But we are not trying to solve our addiction, just get rid of guilty feelings since it's for a good cause.

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.

Who Else Are We Praying For

a woman whose husband died
a woman who is ill
a woman whose mother is ill
a woman with MS and Parkinson's
three women with breast cancer
a woman for stress
a priest whose friend died
a parishioner with cancer
another parishioner with cancer
a woman whose mother died
a woman mourning her daughter
another person whose mother died
a woman whose 2 year old daughter was killed in an accident
a woman whose son died
a woman whose grandmother died

Thank You

Thank you for your gift of prayer and beautiful shawl for my mother-in-law, Eileen. She was very touched by your gifts of time and talent and especially prayers. Eileen is almost 93 years old and very "with it". I know she will treasure this. From Laurel.

Gathering Prayer and Blessing (for an individual)

(A revision of a prayer by Cathleen O'Meara Murtha, DW)

A blessing to my mind - to be free to enter this time of contemplative activity...
A blessing to my hands - to be the source of creating something of beauty and love...
A blessing to my soul - to be open to the promptings of prayer and reflection...
A blessing to my yarn - to be shaped into patterns of loving and caring...
A blessing to my knitting needles / crochet hook / needle / loom - to be the makers of stitches as they become a whole garment...
A blessing to my craftwork- to be a work of heart and hands, body and spirit...
A blessing on those who passed this art to me . . .
A blessing on the one who will receive the fruit of my prayer and handiwork ...
May this shawl/lap blanket be welcomed in the spirit in which it was crafted...
May we become one with the One who knitted each of us in our mother's womb...
I join my blessing, my prayer and the work of my hands with women and men all over the earth in this common effort to bring healing and wholeness, comfort and celebration.

a woman whose mother died
a neighbor's son with stage 4 cancer
an elderly woman with declining health
a woman whose father died
another woman whose mother died
a woman for surgery
another woman for surgery
a sister-in-law who is terminally ill
a cousin of a parishioner with cancer
three people for compassion
a woman for loving support
a woman awaiting surgery
several members of Ascension church

Thank You

To Kathy C – My new prayer shawl is beautiful! Its colors are warm, and easy on the eyes with a beautiful combination of shades. The threads have a soft shine to them. It is a peaceful, happy shawl and I feel that for sure! . . . I will wear this prayer shawl with pride, peace, hope and even with some happiness. I'm sure that I will sometime think of you, and I will sometime mention your name to our God. . . Mary Ann

Gathering Prayer and Blessing (for group work)

(A revision of a prayer by Cathleen O'Meara Murtha, DW)
As we gather in community to share our prayer, our stories, the work of our hearts and hands, we pray for God's blessing on our endeavors:
A blessing to our minds - to be free to enter this time of contemplative activity...
A blessing to our hands - to be the source of creating something of beauty and love...
A blessing to our souls - to be open to the promptings of prayer and reflection...
A blessing to our yarn - to be shaped into patterns of loving and caring...
A blessing to our knitting needles // crochet hooks / needles / looms- to be the makers of stitches as they become a whole garment...
A blessing to our craftwork- to be a works of heart and hands, body and spirit...
A blessing on those who passed these arts to us . . .
A blessing on those who will receive the fruits of our prayer and handiwork...
May these shawls and lap blankets be welcomed in the spirit in which they were crafted ...
May we become one with the One who knitted each of us in our mother's womb...
We join our blessing, our prayers and the work of our hands with women and men all over the earth in this common effort to bring healing and wholeness, comfort and celebration.

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

SEED STITCH OMBRE KNIT BLANKET

MATERIALS

Yarn (7 oz/198 g; 364 yds /333 m)

Color A 2 balls or 725 yds/663 m

Color B 2 balls or 725 yds/663 m

Color C 2 balls or 725 yds/663 m

Size U.S. 8 (5 mm) circular knitting needle 29" [73.5 cm] long or size needed to obtain gauge.

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 50" x 60" [127 x 152.5 cm].

GAUGE 15 sts and 24 rows = 4" [10 cm] in Seed St Pattern.

INSTRUCTIONS

With A, cast on 187 stitches (sts). Do not join.

Working back and forth across needle in rows, proceed as follows:

1st row: Knit 1 (K1). *Purl 1 (P1). K1. Repeat (Rep) from * to end of row.

Rep 1st row until work from beginning (beg) measures 20" [51 cm].

Break A. Join B.

With B, rep 1st row until work from beg measures 40" [101.5 cm].

Break B. Join C.

With C, rep 1st row until work from beg measures 60" [152.5 cm].

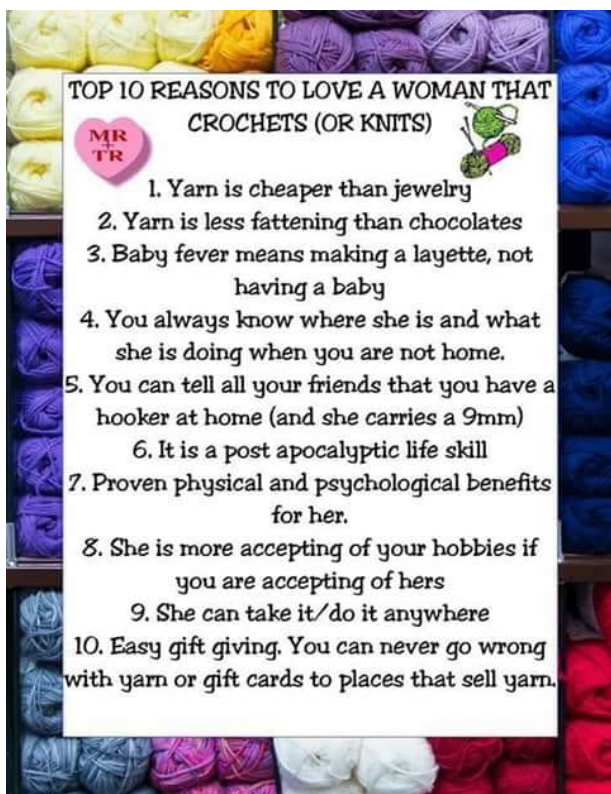
Cast off.

Pompoms (make 4)

With A, B and C held tog, wind yarn around 4 fingers approx 150 times.

Remove from fingers. Tie tightly in the middle with 1 strand and leave 2 long ends for tying to Blanket.

Cut loops at both ends and trim to smooth round shape. Tie one Pompom to each corner of Blanket as shown in photo.



Thank You

Wonderful crocheters/knitters, Thank you very much for all the winter scarves and hats you provided to support the mission of the Holy Cross Hospital.

In gratitude,

Sr. My Huong Pham, SP.



We are still growing

Several new crafters have joined us this quarter, including one with many bankets already made.

There are also about another dozen who contribute but have not formally joined. If you knit, crochet, sew or weave, you can help make comforting items to carry the prayers of the whole church to those in need of them.

Even if you only made one item, that would mean one more person could be wrapped in our prayers and God's love.

Melon Ball Shawl

Materials Used: (Or any size 3 light weight yarn)

1 skein of color A– 265 yds/242 m – 140 g/4.9 oz.

1 skein of color B– 265 yds/242 m – 140 g/4.9 oz.

1 skein of color C– 265 yds /242 m – 140 g/4.9 oz.

G/6 (4.25 mm) crochet hook, Stitch markers, Tapestry needle for weaving in ends

Finished Size Approximately: 63” Width x 29½” Height

Gauge: 17 double crochet stitches and 7½ rows in a 4” (10cm) square.

Abbreviations: FC – foundation chain; RS – right side; WS – wrong side; ch(s) – chain(s); st(s) – stitch(es); sc – single crochet; dc – double crochet; sl st – slip stitch

Notes: When working with a long FC, you can make your job of counting easier if you place a stitch marker at certain intervals along your chain so you don’t have to start over if you lose count. For instance, you can place a stitch marker at every 25 chs, 50 chs, or even every 100 chs. It’s your choice.

This pattern naturally decreases as you work back and forth in rows, which means you will not need to keep track of your rows unless you are changing colors. If you are changing colors, you will need to change your color beginning on a Row 3 or Row 5 repeat. Always attach your new color in the 3rd sc from the previous Row 2 or 4 repeat.

Instructions:

FC: Ch 206 (If you’d like to make a larger or smaller shawl, use a FC with a multiple of 8 chs plus 6.)

Row 1: (RS) In 2nd ch from hook, sc. *Sc in next ch, ch 2, skip next ch, dc in next 4 chs, ch 2, skip next ch, sc in next ch* Repeat from * to * across until 4 chs remain. Sc in next ch, ch 2, skip next ch, dc in next 2 chs. Turn.

Row 2: (WS) Ch 1, sc in same st ch 1 comes out of, sc in next st, *ch 4, sc in next 4 dc’s from previous row* Repeat from * to * across. Turn.

Row 3: (RS) Ch 1, skip the st the ch 1 comes out of, skip next st, *sc in next st, ch 2, skip next st, 4 dc in next ch-4 space, ch 2, skip next st, sc in next st* Repeat from * to * across. Turn.

Row 4: (WS) Ch 4, sc in next 4 dc’s from previous row, *ch 4, sc in next 4 dc’s from previous row* Repeat from * to * across. Turn.

Row 5: (RS) Ch 1, skip the st the ch 1 comes out of, skip next st, *sc in next st, ch 2, skip next st, 4 dc in next ch-4 space, ch 2, skip next st, sc in next st* Repeat from * to * across until 2 sts and ch-4 space remain. Sc in next st, ch 2, skip next st, dc in ch-4 space, dc in 3rd ch of turning chain. Turn.

Repeat Rows 2 – 5 for pattern.

Final Row: Ch 1, skip the st the ch 1 comes out of, skip next st, sc in next st, ch 2, skip next st, dc in ch-4 space, dc in 3rd ch of turning chain.

If changing color for the trim, finish off and weave in ends.

Trim: Attach in corner st with RS of shawl facing you. Ch 6 (counts as dc + ch 3), work a dc in that same corner st, dc evenly to next corner. *In corner st, (dc, ch 3, dc). Dc evenly to next corner* Repeat from * to * once more. Sl st in 3rd ch of ch-6. Finish off. Weave in end.

The sample shawl was created with a random stripe pattern. Each row of color consists of a Row 3 and Row 4 OR a Row 5 and Row 2. So, in other words, a row with 4 dc’s together and a row with 4 sc’s, ch 4 are the two rows that constitute one color stripe. The number of squares in each row is unimportant.

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!