

St. Ann's Shawl Ministry meets in the Parish Center from 2 – 3:30 pm on the first Saturday of the month, and in the Parish Center on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a. m. Meetings are held from September to June. Each meeting begins with a prayer. This is one that's often selected.

Gathering Prayer and Blessing © 2004 All rights reserved

By: Cathleen O'Meara Murtha, DW
www.shawlministry.com

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 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 loving and caring...

A blessing to my yarn - to be shaped into patterns of loving and caring...

A blessing to my needles - to be the holders of stitches as they become a whole garment...

A blessing to my knitting - to be a work of heart and hands, body and spirit...

A blessing on the one who will receive the fruit of my prayer and my knitting...

May this shawl be welcomed in the spirit in which it was knitted...

May we become one with the One who knitted each of us in our mother's womb...

I join my blessing, my prayer and my knitting with women all over the earth in this common effort to bring healing and wholeness, comfort and celebration.

This prayer is used by the members of the Shawl Ministry to bless each shawl after it is completed. A copy of the prayer is included with each shawl given.

May God's grace be upon this shawl...

warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.

May this mantle be a safe haven... a sacred place of security and well-being...

sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.

May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.

Blessed be.

There are several prayers that may also be included when a shawl is given, but the one most often used is the Prayer for Comfort

Prayer For Comfort

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As you wrap yourself in the prayer shawl of comfort...

May the Mother of Mercy, the Father

**of Faithfulness and the Spirit of Compassion
wrap you in their all-encompassing love this day.**

**May you find comfort from all that appears too much to bear at this moment,
From all that feels as if it might be the reaking point,
From all that seems to threaten your peace of heart.**

**May this prayer shawl be a shelter for time of overwhelming grief,
A shade in times of sorrow too deep for words,
A shield from times of unimagivable loss.**

**May you be comforted
by the presence of those who love and support you,
by faith in the eternal Loving One,
by the memories of what you hold most dear.**

**May you be strengthened
in your daily comings and goings,
in your tentative new beginnings,
in your unfolding new memories.**

**There are request cards on the bulletin boards at each door of the church. If people call the
Rectory to request, Carol calls me with the message.**

Prayer Shawl Request

Date _____

Requesting Parishioner _____

Phone # _____

Recipient Name _____

Recipient age _____ *Female* *Male*

Special considerations:

Fiber allergies? *yes* *no*

Other:

Include this prayer with the shawl:

- Prayer for Comfort*
- Prayer for Someone Grieving*
- Transition (major life change) Prayer*
- Prayer for Healing*
- Prayer for Broken Bones*

Place completed card in the collection basket, or send/bring it to the church office. A member of the Shawl Ministry will contact you to make arrangements for the shawl delivery.

For more information about the Shawl Ministry, log on to www.shawlministry.com