

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Directions for knitting a prayer shawl

This ministry began with a group of women who participate in the first Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary. One woman began knitting shawls for women who were undergoing treatment for breast cancer and other illnesses. Another woman made shawls for new mothers. Others in the group learned and began making shawls for friends, family, and others. Some were made for women who were marking birthdays, anniversaries, being commissioned, or just to commemorate the gift of love or friendship or belonging or caring. These wonderful gifts of love can be found all over Connecticut. They have been sent across the country and even around the world.

Simple Directions

YARN. Lion Brand Homespun is recommended— we love the texture, the color, the feel of this particular yarn. You will need about 3 skeins of the yarn, which can be found in most fabric/craft shops as well as at Wal-Mart, K-Mart, or Jo-Anne Fabrics. Yarn is also available in the church office for shawls donated to the church. You are welcome to experiment with other yarns.

NEEDLES. We use size 11 or 13 needles and occasionally 15. These needles provide for a loose weave. (And they make the project go fast!!)

BEGIN by casting on 57 or 63 stitches.

PATTERN: knit three, purl three to the end of the row. Simply repeat this pattern in every row. You will begin and end every row with knitting. The weave-like pattern will develop. If you can't/don't purl, simply knit each row.

BEFORE you begin your third skein, set aside the yarn you will need for making the fringe. Most people use about 100 loops of fringe. Then knit until you finish up the yarn or to your desired length. Some women prefer to use four skeins and lots of fringe.

FRINGE. The length of the fringe is up to you – between 3 and 9 inches.

Obviously, one's preference of length and width and size of stitch vary. The choice of colors keeps growing. There are solids, variegated, and yarns that form a stripe-like pattern. There is no one right way of creating these gifts of love and caring.

On the attached sheets are some suggested prayers for beginning and ending the shawls and are included with the shawls when they are given away. Many women join with others in blessing the completed shawl before sending it off or presenting it.

All are invited to make this project their own and to share it with other women and groups.

Originally written by Cathleen O'Meara Murtha, DW. Fall 1999

Revised by Rev. Susan J. Foster. Fall 2001

Crochet Prayer Shawl Directions

By: Jo Ann M. Heiser
www.shawlministry.com

Materials: 3 skeins of soft worsted weight yarn, Size N Crochet Hook.

Pattern: Chain 55.

Row 1: (Right Side): (3dc, ch 2, sc) in fourth ch from hook, * skip next 2 chs, (3 dc, ch 2 sc) in the next ch.
Repeat from * across.

Row 2: Ch 2 turn. (3 dc, ch 2, sc) in first ch 2 sp and in each ch 2 space across.

Additional note from the designer: When you finish each row....ch 2 turn (3 dc, ch 2, sc) in the same ch 2

Repeat Row 2 until you have used 2 2/3 skeins of yarn (or the piece is about 6 foot long). Do not finish off.

Last Row: Ch 2, turn * sc in first ch 2 sp, ch 2. Repeat from * across and end with a sc. Finish off.

Fringe: Add fringe to first and last rows as desired with remaining yarn.

Prayer Shawl Crochet Instructions

By Jeanette Mercugliano

www.shawlministry.com

This is for a medium sized person, increase width by adding extra chain stitches and length by adding extra rows in the middle of the shawl.

Requires 3 skeins of 'Bulky' yarn for the body and part of a 4th skein for the tassels

Use a U. S. size "L" or larger crochet hook.

Note: For added interest and texture, I crochet in the back loop of all my DC's (ripple stitch)

Chain 62

Chain 2 and turn (this creates the first double crochet), Double crochet in third chain stitch. Double crochet in all remaining chain stitches (you should have a total of 63 DC's in first row).

Chain 2 and turn, DC in Second DC of row 1

Repeat until you have six rows

Chain 3 and turn

Row 7: DC in third DC of row 6, chain1, skip one DC, DC in next DC - repeat for rest of row (you have skipped every other DC of row 6 creating 31 openings or windows)

Chain 2 and turn

Row 8: DC in open stitch of row 7, DC in next DC, repeat to end of row (there should be 63 DC's in this row)

Row 9, 10, 11 repeat same as row 7 and 8 until you have 3 open lattice rows, each separated by a solid row of 63 DC stitches.

Rows 12 through 49 are solid rows of DC's (63 DC in each row) (if you are going to add rows for extra length, this is where to do this). Chain 3 turn

Rows 50 through 54 DC in third DC of row 49, chain 1, skip one DC, DC in next DC - repeat for rest of row (you have skipped every other DC of row 49 creating the same open lattice work as on the other end of the shawl)

Chain 2 and turn

Row 55 DC in open stitch of row 54, DC in next DC, repeat to end of row (there should be 63 DC's in this row.)

Chain 2 and turn

Rows 56-60 DC in each DC of preceding row (63 DC's in all rows)

Tie off and add fringe - 6-9 strands per tassel.

An Additional Tip for this shawl:

When I say chain 3 and turn, those are the rows (3 on each end of the shawl) that create the open "lattice" effect.

Try to visualize this--the shawl is a series of sideways rows, the first three rows are created from the simple double crochet in each stitch. Now we get to the forth row where instead of chain 2 and turn, you will 3 and turn and SKIP ONE double crochet and dc in the third stitch, repeat across entire row, thus creating an open hole. If the Xs represent stitches below you see three "solid" rows of stitches, followed by an open row followed by a closed row. Do this solid row followed by an open row three times and continue on with all solid rows until you come to the other end of the shawl. You can determine how long you want the shawl and continue to crochet until you reach a good length for you. Then repeat what you did on the other end of the shawl--one open stitch row followed by one closed stitch row until you have 3 open rows separated by a closed row, if you repeat the design of the beginning end, you will end the shawl with three solid rows.

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Note: I now begin by crocheting three solid rows as in my first instructions, but I then alternate one open row with one solid row, ending with an open row followed by three solid rows of stitches, the same as the other end. I find that this pattern gives the shawl a more light and airy feeling; it also moves along much more quickly. This has proved quite important to me; in many situations, God adds a time line and this helps to be able to complete the shawl on HIS schedule.