



## History of the Prayer Shawl

Over the centuries, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace and spiritual sustenance. Since the inception of the Prayer Shawl Ministry in 1998, the members of this organization have lovingly donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls, filled with the power of prayer for those in need.

The blessing of the Prayer Shawl provides healing and comfort to the sick, the lonely and the elderly, or shares in the accomplishment of the graduate, newlywed and newborn. Like all acts of generosity, the presentation of a Prayer Shawl enriches the giver as well as the recipient.

I would like to invite people to participate in creating a Prayer Shawl. We would, with your help, begin this new ministry at St. Robert Parish. This can be done in a group setting as well as in the comfort of your own home.

The Prayer Shawl begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, you may add a card or prayer for the recipient. Shawls can be used for: patients when given a difficult diagnosis; when undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; for prayer or meditation.

If you would like a pattern (knitting or crocheting), need some yarn or have any questions, I would love to hear from you. On these cold days and nights that lie ahead of us making a warm prayerful shawl for someone in need will truly warm your heart.

Gail DeFrancisco  
332-1164 ext. 3032  
[gdefrancisco@strobert.org](mailto:gdefrancisco@strobert.org)