

Prayer Shawls – General Guidelines and Patterns

Prayer Shawls can be just about anything you want them to be that meets our mission:
“To provide comfort, caring, and God’s blessings for healing and strength to the receiver.”

SIZE:

We make them about 26-28” wide and 60” long with fringe, but exact measurements are not necessary!
This makes it really easy! You can follow pretty much any pattern and end up with a shawl of appropriate size. We often check the shawl around our shoulders as we go to decide where we want to stop the length. For men’s shawls, a little more length and width may be better. Feel free to use your best judgment.

YARN:

You are free to choose any yarn you prefer, but these are some general guidelines:

- *Most patterns call for a worsted weight yarn. For other yarn weights, you can adjust your needle and pattern sizes.
- *You want your product to be comfortable, machine washable and dryable, and fairly durable – this would include acrylics and blends, cottons, and there are a few newer wool blends that are soft and washable – just make sure it would not be itchy to the skin.
- *Specialty yarns are also fine, just consider the difficulty of working with the yarn.
- *Inexpensive yarn is perfect! This makes the universally available Red Heart and Caron type yarns a popular choice. Otherwise, find stuff on sale!
- *Refer to patterns for yarn amounts and yardages needed. Be careful to adjust for different yarn weights and brands.

COLOR:

Color choice is also up to you! We try to make sure we have a variety of shawls that would be appropriate for men or women or both. Many shawls are one color, some have striped sections, or variegated yarns.

PATTERN:

Again, pretty much any Knit or Crochet pattern works!

- *We have included a few of the basic patterns below.
- *Simple is easier, but feel free to expand your talents with new patterns!
- *You want to choose a pattern that will be firm but soft with your yarn and needle sizes.
- *If you find that your work is too tight or too loose, then adjust needles sizes up or down to get the right feel.
- *Many Prayer Shawl Ministries focus on different patterns of “3.”

FRINGE: Most shawls have added fringe that is about 4-5 inches in length. It is not listed in all patterns, so use your judgment if you would like to add.

PROCESS:

Our opportunity to knit and crochet for others allows us to use our hands for God’s glory. God knows who will receive our offering and what their needs are before it is even complete! As you make your shawl or project, pray that your work is blessed, and that the love that you put into each stitch will surround the person who will receive it with God’s comforting embrace.

Prayer Shawls – Basic Patterns

Ellie's Prayer Shawl Instructions! Two patterns from Ellie:

Most of the time I use the following 2 patterns:.

1)

Red heart Super Saver Yarn or Caron - 7 oz. skein (need 2 skeins) total 14 oz.
Size 10 1/2 needles. Caron skeins are usually 14 - 16 oz. - need only 1 skein.

Pattern - Cast on 72 stitches (can be less but divisible by 3... 66, 69, 72, etc.)

For even multiples of 3: 66, 72, etc.:

1st row: k 3, p 3, to end
2nd row: p 3, k 3, to end

For odd multiples of 3: 69, 75, etc.:

All Rows: k 3, p 3, to end

No need to worry about a pattern. It will be automatic.

Shawl should measure approx. 57-58" long.

2) Cast on even number of stitches. (72 stitches)

Using the same yarn and size needle above, I knit as follows:

1st row: k 2, p 2 ending with p 2.
2nd row: k 2, p 2 ending with p 2:

3rd row: p 2, k 2 ending with k 2
4th row p 2, k 2 ending with k 2

Repeat 1st through 4th rows

This will make a diagonal pattern automatically.

If this does not work, let me know and I will drop by.

Type of Wool

I tend to use knitting worsted, 100% Acrylic, no dye lot, machine wash and dry. It knits firmly but soft.
I also knit on the loose side. .

Experienced knitters may elect to use finer yarn and will need to adjust the number of stitches and size of needles, and length.

This is very doable, just needs conversion.

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Prayer Shawls – Basic Patterns

Knit - Garter Stitch – Plain Garter Stitch works just fine!

Worsted weight, size 10.5 needles

Cast on desired stitches – approx. 65-75 depending on yarn and needle size

All Rows – Knit

Repeat to desired length.

Knit - Variation on Seed Stitch – makes squares of 3:

Worsted weight, size 10.5 needles

Cast On in even multiples of 3 – 66, 72, 78.

Rows 1-3: k 3, p 3 to end

Rows 4-6: p 3, k 3 to end

Repeat sets of Rows 1-6 until desired length.

Crochet – Basic Pattern

Worsted weight and Size N Hook

Chain 54 stitches or desired width – any number of stitches will work

Row 1: Chain 1, turn, Single crochet in 2nd chain and each chain to end, chain 3, turn

Row 2: Skip first single, Double crochet in the top of each single, chain 3, turn

Row 3: Skip first double, double crochet in each double, chain 3, turn

Row 4: Skip first double, double crochet in each double, chain 1, turn

Row 5: Single crochet in each double, chain 3, turn

Repeat Rows 2-5 until desired length. Final Row 5: Single crochet in each double, tie off