



Ladies of Charity Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl: A Catholic Tradition of Comfort and Grace

What Is a Catholic Prayer Shawl?

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the use of sacramentals - holy objects set apart for spiritual benefit - is a beautiful way to draw closer to God. One such modern sacramental, embraced by many Catholic parishes and ministries, is the prayer shawl. Often handmade and given during times of need, a prayer shawl is a physical sign of prayerful support, healing, and the presence of Christ.

A Catholic prayer shawl is a knitted or crocheted wrap created in prayer and often blessed by a priest. It is intended to comfort the sick, console the grieving, strengthen those preparing for surgery, and offer peace to those suffering emotionally or spiritually. While not a sacrament, the shawl becomes a sacramental—a holy sign that prepares a person to receive grace and opens their heart to God’s presence. These shawls are sometimes given after Anointing of the Sick, or during parish outreach to homebound or hospitalized members.

A Ministry of Mercy

In Catholic teaching, caring for the sick, visiting the lonely, and comforting the sorrowful are Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. The prayer shawl ministry embodies these works, wrapping people not only in warmth, but in the love of Christ and the intercession of the Church.

Whether you are creating, blessing, or receiving a shawl, may each prayer shawl remind us of God’s nearness and the powerful bond of prayer among the Body of Christ.

A Catholic Prayer Shawl Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father,

We ask Your blessing upon this prayer shawl, lovingly made in Your name.

May every stitch be a prayer for comfort, healing, and hope.

Wrap the recipient of this prayer shawl in peace, strength, and in the abiding love of Christ.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints,

may this shawl bring consolation and comfort to the weary and healing to the brokenhearted.

Let it be a sign of the prayers of the Body of Your Church, united in love and faith.

In Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...