Don’t always be looking out for me!” she said, half joking, half serious. The young man looked hurt. “Don’t you want me to take care of you?” “No,” she replied, “I know you love me, but I can look after myself.” He was perplexed. He believed that, like the classic Gershwin son, we all want “Someone to Watch Over Me.” And yet there are times when we resist. Jesus is talking about those times in today’s gospel.

In the gospel, Jesus is speaking about God the Father. He is telling us that his Father is shepherd to all human kind, including Jesus. Furthermore, when he says that what the Father has given him is greater than all else, he is talking about the vocation that God has entrusted to him – the vocation to be a shepherd.

From the earliest days of the Church, leaders have been called pastor, from the Latin word for herdsman. But the vocation to be a pastor isn’t limited to members of the ordained priesthood. By virtue of our baptism we all share in the precious gift that is greater than all else. We all share the vocation to care and to be cared for – to shepherd each other. We are all that special someone called to watch over our beloved, and that includes all of humankind. A precious gift indeed!

Patrick Doyle
Living with Christ, April 2007
Liturgical Ministry Schedule for May 5 – 6, 2007

This schedule can also be accessed at St. John’s website – http://stjohns.creighton.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT 5 PM</th>
<th>SUN 8 AM</th>
<th>SUN 10:30 AM</th>
<th>SUN 4:30 PM</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRESIDER</strong></td>
<td><strong>LITURGICAL ASSISTANT</strong></td>
<td><strong>LECTORS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eucharistic Ministers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr. Hamm</td>
<td>Fr. Amidon</td>
<td>Fr. Thelen</td>
<td>Fr. Schlegel</td>
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<td>D. Jorgensen</td>
<td>M. Joseph</td>
<td>J. Tillemant</td>
<td>M. Cherney</td>
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<td>D. Mora</td>
<td>B. Austria</td>
<td>V. Hanus</td>
<td>K. Kasl</td>
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<td>H. Johnson</td>
<td>A. Gacke</td>
<td>J. Sullivan</td>
<td>B. Anderson</td>
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<td>C. Kuper</td>
<td>A. Gacke</td>
<td>J. Berg</td>
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<td>R. Kalkowski</td>
<td>D. Cleary</td>
<td>T. Joyce Whipp</td>
<td>C. Martinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>K. Kalkowski</td>
<td>S. Arndorfur</td>
<td>R. Grim</td>
<td>B. Kiel</td>
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<td>K. Jorgensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.A. McDonald</td>
<td>T. Rainwater</td>
<td>M. J. Slightam</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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**Prayer Requests . . .**

- Dr. Naomi Norman
- Vivian Amu
- Jimmy Rawson
- Sue Hersman
- Helen Ferwerda
- Elvera Kaugmann
- Kerry Burson
- Annette Devlin
- Larry Rohatsch
- Daniel Weist
- Jerry and Anne Ewing
- Mary Gautier
- Theresa Kunneman
- Ed Connor
- Prema Bennett
- Loretta Brudny
- Eddie Boyd
- Steven Bache
- Judy Hartness
- Summer Rawson
- Elias Latoufe
- Charles Connelly
- Loraine Sewich
- Lynn Johnson

**Mass Intentions April 30-May 5, 2007**

7:00 AM (Lower St. John’s)
- Mon: Tom & Manuel Grandinetti, Mary Babick, deceased
- Tues: TBD
- Wed: TBD
- Thu: TBD
- Fri: TBD
- Sat: TBD

12:00 noon (Lower St. John’s)
- Mon: TBD
- Tues: TBD
- Wed: Edward H. McDaniel, deceased
- Thu: TBD
- Fri: TBD
- Sat: TBD

5:00 PM (Lower St. John’s)
- Mon: TBD
- Tues: TBD
- Wed: TBD
- Thu: TBD
- Fri: TBD
- Sat: TBD

**St. John’s Revenue Report: 4/22/07**

- Envelope: $2,955
- Plate: 339
- Stipends/Misc: 1,600
- Total Income: $4,894

Weekly envelope & plate collections totaling $4,773 are needed to meet parish expenses. Thank you for your continuous generosity.

Hallelujah

Gene & Peggy Steffenmeier
Thank You. To all who participated in the St. John’s “Hi Neighbor” Lenten Almsgiving project of providing essentials bags for the women and children who must seek safety in the Catholic Charities Women’s Shelter, thank you. You contributed 48 essentials bags, each brimming with items to ease a time of difficult transition. Thank you for your kindness.

Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop
Saturday, May 12, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm (registration begins at Noon), Columban Fathers, 1902 Calhoun St., in Bellevue.
The talk will occur in the lounge of the 3-story red brick building at the end of Calhoun St. (Go to the right of the building and park in the lot behind it.) A $20.00 fee includes, “Open Mind, Open Heart” by Abbott Thomas Keating, OCSO. Bob Ginn, who teaches in the Creighton Spirituality Program, and Deb Fortina will present the Centering Prayer method and its origins in the Christian Contemplative Tradition. Follow-up sessions (with Fr. Keating on video) will be on Thursdays at 7:30 pm, same location. More information from Deb Fortina, 280-4774.

St. Peregrine Triduum “Sacra-mental Living”
St. Peregrine is the patron saint of all who suffer from cancer and other serious illnesses. All are invited to participate in any or all of the sessions which are held in the convent chapel. No fee. Pre-registration not required.
• Thursday, May 17th, 7:00 pm
  o Keynote Presentation
• Friday, May 18th, 7:00 pm
  o Prayer and Presentation
• Saturday, May 19, 11:00 am
  o Eucharistic Liturgy and Sacramental Anointing of the Sick

Presenter: Father Larry Gillick, SJ
(Director of the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Creighton University)
Location: Servants of Mary
7400 Military Avenue, Omaha, NE 68134
Questions? Sister Zita Sharrow, OSM 402-951-3054
Email: szm@osms.org

St. John’s Community Faith Formation – Spring 2007
Continuing the Dialogue for Common Ground
May 6: Loving What Is: Monotheism as a Wonderful Discovery
Rita Sherman, AFF Director, and Bert Thelen, S.J., Pastor
Summer venues will be discussed at this gathering.
(CFF Sessions on March 18, March 25, and April 1 will be in the Union Pacific Room located in the Reinart Library Building beginning at 9 AM with coffee & donuts, program at 9:15.
W

e are enjoying the works of the Spirit in our hearing each week from the Acts of the Apostles. These preachers of the Word have their ups and downs and somehow they come out of their predicaments with the Spirit still winning. Conversations about Jesus do bring about conversions, but also controversy. The old is so familiar and the new can be a threat.

So we hear in today’s Readings how Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue and while there began proclaiming the Word. They were confronted by jealousy and violent rejection of certain factions of the Jewish leadership. So they finished what they had to say and then made a dramatic statement of orientation.

“We now turn to the Gentiles” as it has been written that they, the apostles, are to be a “light” to all the nations. Persecution by some of the Jewish leaders and being expelled, gave Paul and Barnabas courage and the Gentiles joy to be included into the people of God. Resistance does create energy and Paul with his fellow apostles received plenty of both.

One of the great themes of the second part of John’s Gospel, The Book of Glory, is that God has given us into the hands of Jesus and by His redemptive love; we are presented back to the Father of Jesus in safety and solidarity. John presents Jesus as the Jewish Option amidst various and opposing factions of the Jewish people outside Jerusalem. Jesus has attracted a “flock” and He is presented as the caretaker and guide for this group. Here too there was opposition and controversy. What we are hearing in this small section is the strong affirmation of who we are to Jesus and we are included through His Hands into His fold.

A few weeks ago I had surgery. I was going to be under general anesthetic. I was just reclining on this padded portable table preparatory to getting wheeled into the surgery room. A perfect picture of a person putting his life into the hands of the doctors. The nurses were kind, telling me this and that and I found it easy to put my present-life condition into their hands, because I was still awake, and of course, in complete control. Then it really got serious when the nurse told me she was now putting into the intravenous line, some solution which would “take the edge off”. Well I wasn’t aware of any “edge” until she mentioned it. I was going under and into the surgical hands of somebody who had interviewed me, but I hadn’t quizzed him much and investigated his background and all those others, whose hands would be touching me, cutting me, and digging around inside this very precious body of mine.

Trusting is a most sacred interaction. Here is a simple experiment. Invite someone to smell something which you have in your hand such as a glass or can of something. Raise it toward their nose and instinctively they will take it into their hands even though your hand is still holding the container. They might be your spouse, your child, your best friend, and they still will find it hard to trust that you will not squirt them, mash them in the face, or offer them something terrible to smell.

Jesus is telling us that we belong to Him; He offers us eternal life and that nobody can take us out of His Hands! We are in the hands of His Eternal Father as well and no one can take us away from those hands. We do try to interview God and check out God’s credentials of fidelity before allowing God to offer us something to smell or live. Control is our safeguard and our illusion. As consoling as these lines might be, the more comforting line is when He affirms, “I know them…”

So there I was on the portable-table of sacrifice and I so wanted to put it all in God’s hands by trusting the nurses and doctors and before I knew it I was in my hospital room hours later hoping that I really had trusted that I was in God’s hands. The doctor’s hands were plenty skilled, the nurses were so expert and I had not investigated their backgrounds or their academic qualifications. Did I trust them? Did I trust I was in God’s Hands? God knows. God knows me and so do I.

We trust the seeable, the known with little fears, but trusting what we cannot see or know totally, well, that is too sacred to measure. If I were to go back tomorrow for a completely different surgery, with the same doctor, hmmm, God knows me and to whatever degree I would trust the doctor - that would be sacred and still scary.

The Good shepherd has risen! He who laid down His life for His sheep, Who died for His flock, He is risen, Alleluia.

Fr. Larry Gillick, S.J., used with permission