LENTEN ACTIVITIES

COLLECTION OF HYGIENE ARTICLES
This weekend our Peace and Justice organization is sponsoring a collection of hygiene articles to give to Catholic Charities — toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo and feminine hygiene items. These items will be greatly welcomed by people with very limited resources. If you forgot to bring something today, drop your donation at the parish office this week. Thank you for your support.

PRAYER SERVICE AND SOUP SUPPER
Everyone is welcome to join us this Monday when we will have our first Lenten prayer service and soup supper. Stations of the Cross will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the soup supper will be at 6:00 p.m. These will be held on each of the 6 Monday evenings of Lent — Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2. Free-will donations will be collected and given to Heifer International, Catholic Charities, and the Holy Names Sisters’ Mission in Lesotho, Africa. We are in need of more soup makers… please call Estelle Byrnes (562.439.2561) if you can bring a soup. We also need willing hands to help set up at 4:30 p.m.

REFLECTING ON YOUR LIFE...
During this season of Lent we encourage all parishioners to reflect on next Sunday’s Gospel. To facilitate this, copies of the Gospels will be available after Mass on a table near the Sacred Heart statue. Please take one home with you as you leave the church today. Below are two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life:
1) How are we tempted to embrace “worldly values” rather than those of the transfiguring awesome power of God?
2) Why do we fall silent, rather than share the wonders of God’s work in our lives?

— SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT —
FIRST READING: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

LENT... JOYFUL???
“There are many, I’m sure, who don’t connect “joyful” with the days beginning with Ash Wednesday, but somehow I always have. For one thing the official season of Lent gives us “official permission” and assistance to try to live our daily lives more in tune with God’s will (and living that way DOES increase our joy.) Also, the Lenten season and its concluding days of Holy Week remind us in graphic detail just how much God went through to prove His love for us (a joy in itself) and end with the joyful news of the resurrection which is the only thing that makes sense of our own death.”

Written to St. Matthew parishioners in February of 1994 by Fr. Brad Dusak, Resident Priest of St. Matthew Church.

SUICIDE BILL RE-INTEGRATED IN STATE ASSEMBLY
Do we really “need” physician assisted suicide? Doctors must be healers, not killers. The compassionate answer for terminally ill patients is pain medication, not suicide. Legalizing so-called “voluntary” suicide today will lead to involuntary suicide tomorrow, as demonstrated by the ongoing Netherlands tragedy. If you live in the 54th Assembly District, please send an e-mail message to Assemblywoman Betty Karnette at www.assembly.ca.gov or phone her at 916.319.2054 and ask that she not support AB 374.

L.A. MARATHON BLESSING
All those who will be participating in the LA Marathon, are invited to St. Agatha’s Church on Saturday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m. for Mass. Bring your running shoes or bicycle helmets for a special blessing. If you want to run for a cause, join the Run for Vocations Team. We run for prayers, no money sponsors! To register, contact Sr. Kathy at 213.637.7517. All are welcome for this Mass which will be held the evening before the marathon. St. Agatha’s is located at 2646 S. Mansfield Ave. LA.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK
Shirley Eck, Richard Ramsey

REMINDER
Abstaining from eating meat on Fridays during Lent is observed by adults.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED
Christiane Naylor