

# Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

[www.olvhp.org](http://www.olvhp.org)

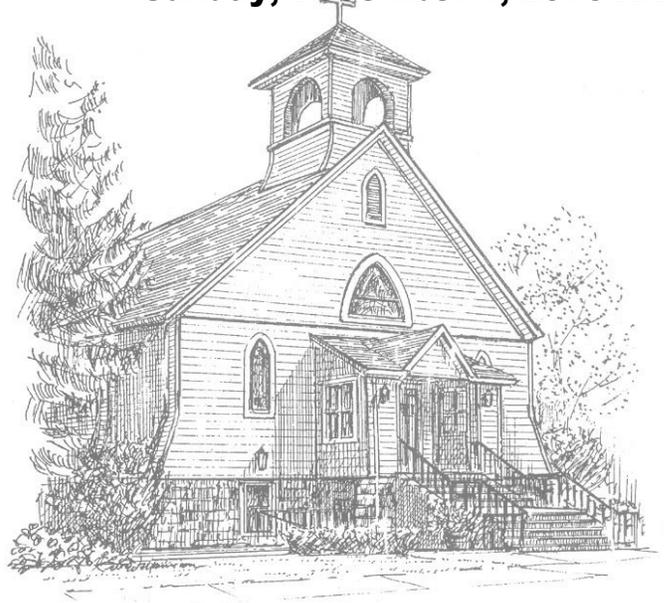


**HOLY DAY MASSES for the Immaculate Conception DECEMBER 8th**

**Wednesday 5:30 & 7:00PM**

**Thursday 6:30AM, 8:00AM, 12:00Noon  
3:30PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM Latin & 7:30PM**

**Sunday, December 4, 2016 A.D.**



## WELCOME

To the Parish Family of  
**OUR LADY OF VICTORIES**  
(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

**COME WORSHIP WITH US**

### Mass Schedule

**Saturday: 4:00pm, 5:00pm**

**Sunday: 7:30am, 8:15am (Latin)  
9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,  
1:00pm (Spanish)  
6:00pm & 7:00pm**

**Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00a.m. & 12:00noon**



OLV Rectory  
Phone: 201-768-1706  
Email: [olvrectory.hp@gmail.com](mailto:olvrectory.hp@gmail.com)

OLV Fax  
201-768-3962

Religious Education  
201-768-1400  
[olvhpccd@gmail.com](mailto:olvhpccd@gmail.com)

OLV Convent  
201-768-1705

### **PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **OLV PARISH** may be restored to health and all those who **ASSIST** and **CARE** for the sick will be given the **STRENGTH** to continue **GOD'S GOOD WILL**: Br. Pius, William Biasi, John Bolger, Ellen Dunn, Catherine Fallon, Kamal Faris, Kathy Freeburn, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Michael Lawten, Joseph LoVecchio, Anne Matthaehi, Teresa Meierdierks, Kathleen Musante, Terry Pommett, Canice Prince, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie & George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, and Jim Walsh.

### **SPIRITUAL EXCERPT**

Be not afraid to tell Jesus that you love Him; even though it be without feeling, this is the way to oblige Him to help you, and carry you like a little child too feeble to walk.

**St. Therese of Lisieux, Counsels and Reminiscences.**

### **HOLY HOUR AT OLV**

**Every Tuesday** from 12:30-3:00PM. **Every Thursday** at 7:00PM OLV has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayers and quiet time. **Every Friday** OLV has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 12:00Noon to 3:00PM. Stop by and make a visit to our Eucharistic Lord.

### **Collection for Retired Religious**

Next weekend, December 10 and 11, there will be a national appeal for funds for the retired Religious Brothers, Sisters and Priests who gave their lives in the service of the Church. Please be as generous as possible for this worthy cause.

### **GOD'S HOUSE**

The Church is God's special dwelling place and some people come to pray, so please be aware of this and please refrain from idle chatter before and after Mass. We should behave differently in God's House as opposed to being at home, at the mall, a grocery store or a civic center.

### **GIVING TREE**

**Giving Tree Gifts must be brought to OLV by next Sunday, December 11th.** Please remember the less fortunate as you shop and prepare for Christmas.

### **BEEFSTEAK DINNER - 1/28/17**

This is a major fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus to fund our seminarians - men studying for the priesthood and other charitable works. It is a fun evening, and last year it was a great success. Please support this dinner. If you would like to be a placemat advertiser send your business card and a check payable to the OLV K of C c/o The OLV K of C, PO Box 145, Harrington Park NJ 07640 or call Greg Evanella 201-784-5752.

### **Silent Night, Holy Night**

*Silent Night, Holy Night* will be held at OLV on Wednesday, December 14, from 6:30PM to 9:00PM. During the season of Advent we ask everyone, young and not so young, to stop for 10 minutes from all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, and visit Jesus in His Church. The gift of time is so precious, but sometimes, especially around Christmas, we are so busy with last minute preparations that we forget about preparing our hearts and souls for the holy celebration of Christmas. As a family, what greater example can we give to our children than to come to God's house and in the silence of the night offer our prayers to Emmanuel — God with us. Please make the effort to come and allow the music of the season to prepare you for the Feast of Christmas.

## **DECEMBER 8**

### **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

THURSDAY, December 8, is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception — the Patroness of the United States.

Masses will be WEDNESDAY at 5:30PM and 7:00PM.  
THURSDAY 6:30AM, 8:00AM, 12:00Noon, 3:30PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM LATIN and 7:30PM.

### **DEFEND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH**

Over the course of the last generation, Christianity and in particular our Catholic Faith has been under attack. Anti-Catholicism is the last acceptable prejudice. What can we do about it? Besides prayer, all Catholics should join The Catholic League at [www.catholicleague.org](http://www.catholicleague.org) or 450 Seventh Avenue, NY, NY 10123 and receive the journal, The Catalyst, which has articles detailing where Catholicism is under attack and by whom. As Christmas approaches, we will see secularism creep in and try to wrestle and strip the season of its Christian elements.

**Remember Christ is the reason for the Season.**

### **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

We are constantly under attack and tempted by the forces of EVIL. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-3:15PM members of OLV parish meet and pray the Marian Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

### **CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION**

**Our Lord** told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession at a minimum once a month. This sacrament is offered EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to Noon and 3:00-3:25PM. Monday through Friday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 7:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

### **SAVE USED EYEGLASSES**

The OLV Knights of Columbus collects used and old eyeglasses for the less fortunate. Any old or "retired" glasses may be left at the rectory.

### **CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES**

#### **46TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING**

The Cathedral Choir and Instrumental Ensemble will perform on Wednesday, December 14 and Thursday, December 15. Performances begin at 8:00PM—doors open at 7:00PM. Ramped entrance on Ridge Street secure parking—Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Park and Clifton Avenues, Newark. For info please call 973-484-2400.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you all for donating over 250 bags of groceries, 90 Turkeys and several hundred dollars in gift cards, which were collected at Thanksgiving for the less fortunate.

### **YG Christmas Greens Sale**

The Youth Group of Our Lady of Victories Parish is conducting a wreath and grave blanket sale. All proceeds of this sale will support our Youth Ministry Program. Thank you for your support.

**Small Grave Blanket \$25**  
**Large Grave Blanket \$35**  
**Decorated Wreath \$25**

### **Upcoming OLV Parish Events**

Dec 4—Sun—Evensong with OLV Choirs 4:00PM  
Dec 6 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM  
Dec 6—Tue—Bereavement Group 6:30PM  
Dec 7—Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM  
Dec 7 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM  
Dec 8—Thu—Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of Obligation  
Dec 9—Fri— Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM  
Dec 10 - Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00Noon & 3:00-3:25PM  
Dec 10 -Sat—AA - lower Church 6:30-8:30PM  
Dec 11—Sun—Giving Tree Gifts due back  
Dec 13—Tue—Blessing of Oil, salt and water after novena prayers  
Jan 28—Sat—K of C Beefsteak Dinner  
Feb 4—Sat—10AM—First Confession  
Apr 2— Sun—Rosary Breakfast  
May 21—Sun- 2:00PM -Confirmation

### **PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY**

Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;  
Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;  
Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;  
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;  
Major Michael Franson, US Army;  
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;  
Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;  
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;  
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;  
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;  
Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;  
2nd Lieutenant Gigi McElroy, US Army;  
Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;  
Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

### **PRAYER FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

O Prince of peace, we humbly ask your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from you. For you are God, for ever and ever.

### **SICK OR "HOMEBOUND"**

If you are sick or "homebound" (or know someone who is), and would like to have Communion, please contact the Rectory at 201-768-1706.

### **WORKERS NEEDED**

The Harvest is great but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord to send more laborers into the harvest. Become a Priest or Religious Brother or Sister or Permanent Deacon. For information see Fr. Bryan or call the Vocations Office 973-497-4365.

### **Blessing of Water, Salt and Oil**

After the Marian Novena prayers on Tuesday, December 13, there will be blessing of water, salt and oil.

### **CCD CORNER**

Before the Thanksgiving break, our classes put their faith into action by performing some of the Corporal Works of Mercy by collecting food and feeding the poor; remembering those in prison by sending them cards of hope and forgiveness; by offering special prayers for the sick, the homeless and lonely. As we begin the holy season of Advent, our teachers and students will participate each week in an Advent Prayer Service. With Christmas just being a few weeks away, we will take the time to prepare our minds and souls for the celebration of the Birth of Christ.

## **PLEASE OBEY PARKING LAWS**

**One cannot park in a crosswalk or block a driveway.  
One needs to park 25 feet from a crosswalk or corner.  
One needs to park 50 feet from a stop sign.  
Parking is prohibited on Harriot Ave. between Elliot and Lynn.**

### **OLV Advent Evensong Concert**

**Sunday, December 4—4:00PM**

An Advent celebration of light through prayer and music by the three choirs of our parish. Join us!

### **PRAYER FOR AMERICA TODAY**

Now I sit me down in school; where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God; finds mention of Him very odd.  
If scripture now the class recites, it violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow, becomes a Federal matter now.  
Our hair can be purple, orange or green, that's no offence; it's a freedom scene.  
The law is specific, the law is precise, prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.  
For praying in a public hall might offend someone with no faith at all.  
In silence alone we must meditate, God's name is prohibited by the State..  
We're allowed to cuss & dress like freaks, pierce our noses, tongues & cheeks.  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.  
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen, and the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.  
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong..  
We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.  
It's scary here I must confess, when chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make: Should I be shot; My soul please take! Amen

### **Scrooge Alert**

American Family Association is calling for a month boycott of Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic over the company's censorship of the word "Christmas". For years, the Gap-owned companies have refused to use the word Christmas in their advertising, despite tens of thousands of consumer requests to recognize Christmas. Need proof? Visit website [www.gap.com](http://www.gap.com) or [www.oldnavy.com](http://www.oldnavy.com) and type "Christmas" in the search bar. As of today the sites bring up zero results. Yet the company wants all the people who celebrate Christmas to do their shopping at their stores. Until Gap proves it recognizes Christmas by using it in their newspaper, radio and television or in-store signage, the boycott will be promoted.

### **Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

CDA is a national organization dedicated to prayer, good works, and the helping of others less fortunate. You will make new and dear friends and have fun while enriching your life and others. Regular meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the lower church at 7:00PM. For info, contact [ReneeTringali@gmail.com](mailto:ReneeTringali@gmail.com)/201-913-2580.

### **ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?**

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. Stop by the Rectory any weekday and meet Maria and register to become a member of the OLV Family. Census forms are also located in the Church vestibule

### **OLV Scripture Study**

The OLV Bible Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00a.m. in the Lower Church conference room. All are welcome to join us.

**CATHOLIC CARE FOR THOSE TERMINALLY ILL WITH CANCER**

Rosary Hill Home, owned and operated by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, NY, since 1901, is committed to providing loving, one-on-one palliative care to those suffering from terminal cancer. Free to all who meet the Admission requirements; there is no discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex or handicap. The Sisters depend solely upon the "providence of God and the hourly mercy of the charitable public;" no payment is accepted from patients, their families, private insurance or from the government. For info call 914-769-0114 or visit [www.rosaryhillhome.org](http://www.rosaryhillhome.org).

**SUPPLEMENTING RETIREMENT WITH A PLANNED GIFT**

Are you nearing retirement or are already retired and are looking to make a year-end gift? If so, a Charitable Gift Annuity can be a way to supplement your retirement income and help your parish at the same time. Also, if you are 70 1/2 or older, don't forget about the IRA Charitable Rollover. Let the Archdiocese of Newark help you set up a Charitable Gift Annuity. Contact Theresa Lynch in the Planned Giving Office—973-497-4042 or [lynchthe@rcan.org](mailto:lynchthe@rcan.org).

**CLOTHING BINS**

Through the turbulence of your many demands, would you be willing to take a few minutes to gather your unwanted clothing and shoes to help the poor? Please drop them in the donation bins located on the Church grounds. Your donations help Catholic Charities and Mt. Carmel Guild.

**CORVETTE & CAPITALISM**

A guy with a man bun looked at my friend's Corvette the other day and said, "I wonder how many people could have been fed for the money that sports car cost?" My friend replied, I am not sure, but it fed a lot of families in Bowling Green, Kentucky where it was built! It fed the people who make the tires. It fed the people who made the components that went into it. It fed the people in the copper mine who mined the copper for the wire. It fed people in Decatur IL. at Caterpillar who make the trucks that haul the copper ore. It fed the trucking people who hauled it from the plant to the dealer, and fed the people working at the dealership and their families. BUT, ... I guess I'll have to admit, I guess I don't know exactly how many people it fed.

That is the difference between capitalism and welfare mentality. When you buy something, you put money in people's pockets, and give them dignity for their skills. When you give someone something for nothing, you rob them of their dignity and self-worth. Capitalism is freely-giving your money in exchange for something of value. Socialism is taking your money against your will and shoving something down your throat that you never asked for. I've decided I won't be politically correct anymore.

**OLV PARISH REGISTRATION**

If you are presently not on our mailing list, receiving envelopes and the various parish mailings, chances are that you are not a registered member of our parish. You are **NOT automatically** a registered member because you were married here or even if you were brought up here and lived in the parish with your parents - or went to school here. Membership is by **FORMAL** registration **ONLY**. Call the Parish Office at 201-768-1706 to see if you are registered and if not, let us help you become an official member of Our Lady of Victories Parish. Thank you.

**A COURAGEOUS CHOICE**

Over 2000 years ago, an angel announced the pregnancy of a young unmarried girl. The courageous choice made by that young woman to give birth in difficult circumstances, supported by a man named Joseph, still stands as a model of God's way to handle unplanned pregnancy.

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, December 5—St. Gerald of France-Bishop of Braga, Spain**  
 8:00 Betsy Clark R/b Sr. Elizabeth Holler  
 12:00 James McGrath Sr. R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

**Tuesday, December 6— St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra aka St. Nick**  
 8:00 John Gallagher R/b the Barrett Family  
 12:00 Anthony Knight R/b Bob and Renee Tringali

**Wednesday, December 7—St. Ambrose-Bishop of Milan, Italy**  
 8:00 Betsy Clark R/b Jeanne Marie Walsh  
 12:00 Frank Cangialosi R/b Ruth Cangialosi  
 5:30 Michael Keene R/b Pat Keene  
 7:00 John T. O'Neill R/b the Rossi and Giordano Families

**Thursday, December 8 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
 6:30 Anna Grassi—1st Anniversary R/b Family  
 8:00 Mark Joseph Fizulich R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich  
 12:00 Michael Giotta R/b Family  
 3:30 Elizabeth Torre R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel  
 5:00 Joseph Wanner R/b Catherine Wanner  
 6:00 *Latin* Slavko Grgurev R/b the Fizulich Family  
 7:30 Kevin O'Halloran R/b Don and Liz Ulisse

**Friday, December 9—Saint Juan Diego**  
 8:00 Betsy Clark R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich  
 12:00 Infant John R/b the Zanetti Family

**Saturday, December 10—St. Romaric-Abbot**  
 8:00 Betsy Clark R/b Scott and Cecilia O'Donnell  
 12:00 John Nicoletti R/b Rose Nicoletti  
 4:00 Stephen Quinn R/b Dennis and Janet Smith  
 5:00 Henry Guidi R/b Josephine J. Fogarino and Marie Michaels

**Sunday, December 11 – St. Damasus I of Rome, Pope**  
 7:30 Rosemarie O'Brien R/b Judy Pommert  
 8:15 Sonia Pascual Napiza R/b Esty Parlanti  
 9:30 Bartram Lee Reeves R/b Family  
 10:45 Michael Bentivegna R/b the Bentivegna Family  
 12:00 Rev. Henry Goodwin, O.Carm. R/b the Zwerle Family  
 1:00 People of the Parish  
 6:00 Intentions of the McCarthy Family R/b Anthony and Marietta Macaluso  
 7:00 Kevin O'Halloran R/b Bill and Kay Gilligan

**Sanctuary Memorials**

The Church Sanctuary Lamp, the Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp and the St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn this week for the intentions of **Frances Semler, in honor of her 98th birthday.**  
The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns for the souls in Purgatory.  
The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns for the unemployed.  
The Hosts and Wine used at Mass this week have been donated in memory of **Jack O'Sullivan, r/b** by Michael and Barbara Fizulich.

**SANTA CLAUS**

**Our Santa Claus** is really St. Nicholas, who was a bishop in Asia Minor during the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. St. Nicholas gave many gifts anonymously in his lifetime and became known as the protector of children. The Dutch settlers brought the tradition of St. Nicholas with them to America, where they celebrated his feast day on December 6<sup>th</sup>, which is near Christmas time. The Dutch version of this Saint was called "Sinterklaas". Santa Claus became an Americanization of that name.

**KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS**

1. Hessian troops during the American Revolution. 2. 30 million.
  3. 1851 4. Franklin Pierce 5. Calvin Coolidge in 1923 .
- "Talk is cheap...except when government does it." **Anonymous**

**WORLD EVENTS BY FR. GEORGE W. RUTLER  
NOVEMBER 20, 2016**

Considering how many crucial matters were at stake during the recent election, including the right to life and religious freedom, and the preponderant bias in the media and opinion polls, it did not seem melodramatic to hope for a prudential hand to guide things. There will be much thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day.

Some who trusted pundits were shocked that their perception was an illusion, confirming T.S. Eliot's words in his "Four Quartets": "Humankind cannot bear very much reality." The New York Times, fearful of further declines in its dropping influence, apologized for misreading the demographics of our culture, and came as close as it could to admitting that it had been wrong, by confessing that it had not been right. But thousands accustomed to life in a parallel universe and impervious to the rebukes of reason expressed their befuddlement at the results of the presidential election by demonstrating and even rioting when facts shattered their expectations.

Our college campuses have been breeding grounds for self-absorption and corruption of the senses. Professors who had never attained moral maturity themselves, reacted by providing "safe spaces" for students traumatized by reality. In universities across the land, by a sodality of silliness in the academic establishment, these "safe spaces" were supplied with soft cushions, hot chocolate, coloring books, and attendant psychologists. At least one university provided friendly kittens and puppies for weeping students to cuddle. A college chaplaincy invited students to pray, the implication being that their petitions might persuade the Lord to rethink his political leanings.

The average age of a Continental soldier in the American Revolution was one year less than that of a college freshman today. Alexander Hamilton was a fighting lieutenant-general at 21, not to mention Joan of Arc who led an army into battle and saved France when she was about as old as an American college sophomore. In our Civil War, eight Union generals and seven Confederate generals were under the age of 25. The age of most U.S. and RAF fighter pilots in World War II was about that of those on college junior varsity teams. Catholics who hoped in this election for another Lepanto miracle will remember that back in 1571, Don Juan of Austria saved Western civilization as commanding admiral when he was 24. None of these figures, in the various struggles against the world and the flesh and evil, retreated to safe spaces weeping in the arms of grief therapists.

What will the frightened half-adults do when they leave their safe spaces and enter a society where there is no one to offer them hot chocolate? Christ formed his disciples in a more practical way: "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" We are here today because those disciples did as they were told, and were not shrewd as doves and innocent as snakes.

**HOW TO REPORT ABUSE**

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Office of Child and Youth Protection at (201) 407-3256.

**KIDZ KORNER**

1. Who introduced the tradition of Christmas trees in the U.S.?
2. How many people in the U.S. buy live Christmas trees?
3. In what year were Christmas trees first sold in NYC?
4. What President first had a Christmas tree in the White House?
5. Which President started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony?

**Answers on page 4**

**High Court in Ireland Rules  
an Unborn Baby Has a Right to Life**

A High Court judge has ruled that the word 'unborn' in the Irish Constitution means an "unborn child" with rights beyond the right to life which "must be taken seriously" by the State. The Irish Times reports that Mr. Justice Richard Humphreys said that the unborn child, including the unborn child of a parent facing deportation, enjoys "significant" rights and legal position at common law, by statute, and under the Constitution, "going well beyond the right to life alone".

The judgment was made in a judicial review of a deportation order. Mr. Justice Humphreys said many of those rights were "actually effective" rather than merely prospective. He also said that Article 42a of the Constitution, inserted by a 2012 referendum, obliges the State to protect "all" children and that because an "unborn" is "clearly a child", Article 42a applied to all children "both before and after birth".

Niamh Uí Bhriain of the Life Institute said that this was a significant ruling which confirmed that the unborn baby was deserving of all the rights and protections to which every other person was entitled. She added that the ruling was a blow to those who were seeking to discriminate against children before birth and who argued that the preborn child was not fully human or entitled to human rights.

"This is an important ruling which provides useful clarity at a time when the media and abortion campaigners are arguing that preborn children should be denied even the most fundamental right – the right to life," she said. "Mr. Justice Humphreys has ruled that preborn children not only have a right to life, but that the State is obliged to ensure that all the rights accruing to every child are upheld for children before birth."

"It is interesting that in his decision Mr. Justice Humphreys dismissed as 'entirely without merit' the argument made by the State that the only relevant right of an unborn child was a right to life," she said.

"This ruling reminds us that we are a human being from conception and that our human rights must be protected and upheld from that point," said the Life Institute spokeswoman.

**Advent—Waiting....waiting.... by Fr. Seher**

I have often wondered who waits for whom? I somehow remember that a guy chases a girl until she catches him. Do I wait for the Lord or is the Lord waiting for me? Is the Lord hiding in an obvious place like behind a branch without leaves and is all excited when found. Am I the one looking? Am I the one to be found? We have made many pilgrimages to almost all the Holy Places. The real issue is that we need to look in more obvious places. What obvious place would Jesus hide? An inn? A barn? A cave? A crib? I think we need to ask the question about ourselves. Where and how do we hide? Under piles of work? Busy, busy, busy? In the yard? I could focus on any of those. I choose to speak about hiding behind past hurts or wounds. Wounded wolves, they tell me, hide in a corner. They howl and bark to protect the wound. If you approach, the howl becomes fiercer and more angry. The fierce anger, in the mind of the wolf, hides the wound. No one can get near it! I see God hiding behind a leafless branch excited at the opportunity of being found, and we are hiding behind our bark and growl. No one can come near. So, how do we come together? In our fair or unfair bark, we wait and wait and wait. Like the tantrum of a spoiled child, we have to wait it out and see the branch. The Lord is there all along, still excited about being found. All of our prayer is not a denial of our wounds. Our prayer is an invitation to take the risk and find a new way of healing the pain by looking behind the branch. Help to make this Advent a prayerful time of waiting to see who finds whom? Would you not wait so that the Lord might meet you?

**Lord, keep Your arm around my shoulder  
and Your hand over my mouth.**