



Father Danny Murphy is a retired Pastor from Brooklyn NY. A gifted man with a God given talent to inspire and God's gift to us at Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach Florida. This is just one of his inspirational homilies.

Fr. Danny Murphy – 32nd Sunday of the Year 2016

A short lesson in scripture before we start our homily: the Gospel today has Jesus encountering the Sadducees. The Pharisees and the Sadducees were the two prominent Jewish sects of our Lord's time; the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The major difference between the Pharisees and the Sadducees is that the Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead and the other sect did not, and that's "Sad, you see!" (Silence...then scattered laughter...) I'm gonna ask Dan Kroger now, Dan make sure, under the pain of Mortal Sin, that I NEVER bring THAT one out of the bag again!, NEVER!! We'd better get right into the homily, "fuggeddabout" the Sadducees, now, for our homily today, we are not going to reflect on our Gospel story, the fascinating story of one bride for seven brothers! Rather, we'll reflect on our first reading, the gruesome story about a mother and her seven sons. In the story, we hear that a mother and her seven sons, were arrested, tortured and killed because they refused to eat pork. As one of the son's said, "We are ready to die rather than transgress the law of our ancestors." And die they did! At the risk of sounding flippant, and

truly, I do not want to sound flippant, not today nor any day. I'm taking this risk when I ask myself numerous times the following question, and you might want to ask yourself this question as well. Here's the question: Did the decision that the mother and her seven sons make, really please God? Is God really pleased that they would rather die than eat pork? What do you think? But we're not going to reflect on whether they should have kept the law of their ancestors, or that they should have kept their lives. Instead, we're going to reflect on something much more important and much more contemporary. Here's the question: What really does please God? Well, if we spend some time thinking about what really does please God, I bet you that you can come up with a list about what really pleases God. And, if I spent time doing the same, I too could come up with such a list. So what we'll do is we'll take a basic premise, something that I think we can be confident that DOES please God. What does please God is for us to BELIEVE in God! Once in a while, I have shared with you that often I substitute the word "Trust" for the word "Belief" or "Faith." The reason I do this, for myself, is because I am so convinced that it is so essential for us to trust God! For us to trust God totally, that is what leads to a close relationship with God, I'm convinced of that. To trust God totally, that's what leads to inner peace, I'm convinced of that! But today, for our reflection, we'll use the word "Believe" – what does it mean for us to believe in God? Well, our English word, believe, comes from an old German word originally meaning "to commit to." So, for us to believe in God means that we commit ourselves to God. We commit ourselves to God's will and to God's ways. If I or you commit ourselves to God's will and to God's ways, that means you believe in God, well, that certainly pleases God, don't you think? The Corleone family of "Godfather" fame said that they believed in God. But they certainly weren't committed God, weren't they? They recited every word of the Creed, they made sure their babies were baptized, but the way they lived their lives, certainly, wasn't pleasing to God! So, to believe in God means much much more than only dogmas and doctrines. To believe in God means to commit yourself to God's will and to

God's ways. In a moment, you and I are going to stand up and we are going to profess: "I believe in God..." Do I really? Do you really?