



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 – 12th Sunday of the Year 2017

Dan told us at the start of Mass that today is the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time will continue uninterrupted until December the third, the First Sunday of Advent.

So we have plenty of time to ease into Ordinary Time. This gives me an excuse not to talk today about the Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary time. But Instead, I am going to tell you three stories. When you first hear these stories, you might chuckle, but try hard as you are listening to these stories, to look into the mirror – to look into yourself. Try hard to grasp the message for your life that I think each of these stories contains. Our first story: A passenger on a railroad, told the waiter in the dining car, "I will have a cherry tart for dessert." The waiter apologized, "We don't have any cherry tarts." The man exploded, "What? No cherry tarts? That's absurd! I am one of the best customers on this railroad.

Each year I organize trips for thousands of tourists and now, when I myself am a passenger, I can't even have something as simple as a cherry tart!" The manager called the waiter aside and told him, "on the next stop, we'll get him his cherry tarts." Right after the next stop the waiter rushed back: "Sir, I have good news! Here are cherry tarts, especially for you! And here is seventy-five year old brandy, compliments of the railroad." The man threw down his napkin, pounded on the table and shouted: "Keep the cherry tarts and the brandy! I would rather be angry!" How much happier my life would be if I resented nothing! Our second story: A man was a regular customer in this restaurant, so the manager wanted to please him. One night, he complained to the waiter when his meal was brought: "You only brought one piece of bread with my dinner!" The waiter promptly brought out four more slices of bread. "Good," he said, "but not good enough! I like bread, I like plenty of bread!" So, the next night, the waiter brought twelve slices of bread with his dinner. "Good, but not good enough, we're still being cruel, aren't we?" The following night even a full basket of bread slices didn't satisfy him. So, the manager said, "I'm gonna fix this guy!" And he had a colossal loaf of bread baked especially for him; it was so long and so wide that the manager needed two waiters to help bring it to the table. The man looked at the gigantic loaf and complained to the manager, "Oh, I see we're back to one piece again!" It is good to light a candle but to curse the darkness with my complaints is much more common. Our final story: Once upon a time there was an inn called The Silver Star. The innkeeper just couldn't make ends meet. Despite trying to draw in customers with a comfortable inn, cordial

service, reasonable prices. So, in despair, the innkeeper consulted a sage. After the sage listened to her tale of woe, the sage said: "Simple! Change the name of your inn." "Impossible," wailed the innkeeper, "this inn has been called The Silver Star for generations." "No," the sage said firmly, "you are to name it The Five Bells, and you are to put a row of six bells at the entrance." "Six bells! What would I do that for?" wailed the innkeeper. "Wait and see," said the sage with a smile. So, the woman waited and this is what she saw. Every traveler who passed by the inn went in to point out the mistake that was outside, thinking they were the only one who noticed it. When they came in they were impressed by how cordial the innkeeper was, so they stayed, they had refreshments and dinner and before long, the innkeeper was making a fortune. Nothing delights my ego more than pointing out other peoples' mistakes. Were you able to look at the mirror? Were you able to grasp a message for your life?