



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 – 13th Sunday of the Year 2017

We're gonna get right into the scriptures, BUT, because this the fourth of July weekend, I thought we could start with a little patriotic joke. Now, the operative word here is JOKE, alright! Now, this is the bible right? Hand on the bible! This is NOT a political statement – this is a JOKE. Our political climate is so tense. I do not want to add to that tension. Rather, I want to bring a little levity to it. Soo, you got that? Now, we are going to mention Donald Trump, but only because Donald Trump is president. I would say the exact same thing were Hillary Clinton president, or last year, Barack Obama president, or anyone who was president. That has to be the longest introduction to a joke in the whole history of comedy!! But the reason I do it is I really, really hope you don't read anything into this, well

if you do, you do, but I'm not putting anything into this, alright? One day last week, President Trump was swimming in the ocean at his Palm Beach resort, got caught in an undertow and was drowning. Three teenagers – two boys and a girl saw him and pulled him to safety. President Trump was so grateful, that he said to them: "What could I ever do for you for saving my life?" The first boy replied, "I'd like to go to West Point!" "Consider it done, son!" beamed Trump. The second boy said, "I'd like to go to Annapolis!" "Consider it done, son!" beamed Trump. The girl said, "I'd like to be buried in Arlington Cemetery!" That puzzled President Trump, so he asked her why. She said, "Well, when my parents find out that I saved your life, they're gonna kill me!" Don't read into that, it's a JOKE!! A little parenthesis here, maybe we do need a little levity in our political climate – it is really tense out there. Now the scriptures, today we're going to reflect on the three "Gs" The three virtues of Graciousness, Gratitude and Generosity. And those three virtues: Graciousness, Gratitude and Generosity, are beautifully depicted in the story of our first reading. It's the story of a woman who invites the prophet Elisha to her home for dinner. He frequently visited, so her husband built a room on the roof of her home so that when he visited, he would be comfortable. Elisha in turn, knew that the couple didn't have any children and that the husband was advancing in years. (By the way, scriptures says the HUSBAND was advancing 1 year, wives never advance in years). In any case, Elisha prevails upon God to bless the couple with a baby within the next year. That's the story, now let's take a look at how the three virtues – the three G's are depicted in that story. Graciousness. Now the wife

was gracious in inviting Elisha to her home for dinner. But we're going to focus, a little bit more, on the graciousness of her husband. Not only did he build a room on the roof of their home for Elisha's frequent visits, but also another man was visiting frequently but he trusted his wife completely. He had a gracious relationship with his wife, because he was secure in her love for him. She didn't have to keep proving it – he knew it. That's a gracious relationship with anyone and we can have that kind of a gracious relationship with God. If we could trust God totally, that God loves us completely, then God wouldn't have to keep proving that to us over and over again – we'd know it! Gratitude. Elisha was so grateful for the graciousness of the husband and wife that he asked himself, "What can I do for them?" Jesus tells us in today's Gospel: "If you give so much as a cup of cold water to anyone, you will not be without your reward." A cup of cold water! In his name, he'll reward you. Elisha is a grateful person, Jesus is a grateful person. Am I a grateful person? St. Paul tells us, and you can look this up, this is amazing statement: "Everything is gift!" Shouldn't that make us grateful? St. Paul also says: "Give thanks always!" So I should be grateful always, for everything. And finally, Generosity. What impressed me about the people that we met in our story, is that each of them did good right then and there. They didn't put off doing good, they did it then. Have you heard the fable of the cow and the pig? One day the pig was lamenting to a cow. "Why are pigs so unpopular? People say that cows are lovely. I know that you give them milk and cream, but I give them more. I give them bacon, ham, pork, yet nobody seems to like pigs! Why?" The cow thought for a moment and then said,

"Perhaps it's because I give to the people while I'm still living" Dear Jesus, please give me the grace to be gracious, grateful, generous right now, not someday, THIS day!