



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.

Danny Murphy – 27th Sunday of the Year 2017

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." That's from our second reading and that is the blueprint for our lives that God wishes for each of us. It has been said that most people live lives of "quiet desperation." How much that must sadden God. God is a loving parent. What mother or father would want their child to be filled with anxiety, devoid of peace. Yes, there will be trials and tribulations, tragedies and tears, but we can be filled with peace, free of anxiety even when, especially when our lives are not going well. Here are two suggestions: one from me and one from St. Paul that hopefully will attain this. My suggestion: Try to realize that what is causing you anxiety now, is probably passing. The

toughest day of my life, so far was thirty-one years ago this week. October the 4th, 1968, a Saturday. My sister, Kathleen and I, were at the bedside of my father who was dying of cancer. He was crying out; shrieking with pain. After several hours of that, my sister broke down and started sobbing. It was then about twelve noon. I knew that I had to stay with my father and my sister, but I also knew that I was expected to preside, that afternoon at a three p.m. Nuptial Mass, I was expected to preside that afternoon to preside at the five p.m. parish Mass and I was expected to preside that night at a special seven thirty p.m. Mass for a couple who were celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Then I made some of the most difficult telephone calls I have ever made. First, I called the bride to explain to her that I could not be the priest at her wedding, even though I knew that the only reason she was coming from her parish to my parish was because she wanted me to be the priest at her wedding. Then I called the priest and leaned on him to please fill in for me at the three p.m. Nuptial Mass and the five p.m. parish Mass knowing that he, like me, on a Saturday, had confessions, baptisms, weddings, masses. Finally, I called the anniversary couple telling them that I couldn't celebrate their Mass, knowing that they had invited dozens and dozens of family and friends to be at that Mass. It was a very difficult day, but I and everyone else involved got through that day! We got through it! Most problems are passing! There just not worth all the anxiety and stress that we give to them; we can't allow them to rob us of our inner peace. But, you might object, "My problem is not passing, it's current: my spouse died, my child died, my marriage dissolved, my health is failing, my independence is

compromised, I'm in chronic pain..." and so on... When your problem is permanent, St. Paul suggests: "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving make your requests known to God; tell God everything, ask God for everything, thrust God in everything." St. Paul suggests that we give thanks to God even before we ask God! That's trusting God! That's trusting that God loves me and that God will always be with me, and that God will see me through this. "Then, the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Do you notice that you don't start with peace? You start with prayer. Then you move through prayer to trust, then you move through prayer and trust to peace! And once you move into peace, you will never be the same again. While most people are living lives of "Quiet Desperation," you'll be living your life in quiet serenity, no matter what! So, "have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."