



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 – 31st Sunday of the Year 2017

Tonight we're going to reflect upon our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachy. Before we do, let's see if there might be some connection between our Responsorial Psalm and the last sentence of our Gospel. In the last sentence of our Gospel, Jesus tells us: "Whoever humbles himself, will be exalted." And our responsorial psalm, Psalm 131 says: "Lord, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty. I busy not myself with great things, nor with things too sublime for me. Rather, like a weaned child in its mother's lap, so is my soul within me. In you Lord, I have found my peace." Psalm 131, our responsorial psalm today is a wonderful way to humble oneself. To humble oneself it to acknowledge that there are some things that I just can't figure out. So, like a little child, I give those things to my heavenly Father and then I am at peace. Tonight, the Prophet

Malachy asks us: "Have we not all the one Father, has not the one God created us? Why then do we break faith with one another?" Why indeed do we break faith with one another? The redwood trees in California are considered to be the largest things on earth and the tallest trees in the world. Some can grow over three hundred feet high and are over five hundred years old. SO you would think that such huge trees would have very deep roots. Apparently, redwood trees have very shallow roots, but they intertwine. They are all locked together. So when the storms come and the winds blow, the redwood trees survive because they are all locked together. They support and protect each other. In his twelfth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul teaches us that: "We are all parts of one body." Jesus teaches us in St. Matthew's Gospel, chapter twenty-five, whatever you do for anyone else; whatever you fail to do for anyone else, that's what you do or fail to do for me. Because we are all parts of the one body, whatever I do or whatever I fail to do for you, that's what I do or fail to do for me! We're all locked together. If I help you I help me; if I hurt you, I hurt me. We're all part of the one body. If you're hurting I yell: Ouch!" If you're laughing, I rejoice, because we're all united. The Prophet Malachy asks: "Have we not all the one father, has not the one God created us? Why then, do we break faith with each other?"