



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 – ASH WEDNESDAY – 2017

Allow me please to first address myself to those who come to Mass regularly. We might look around and ask ourselves: "Where are all these people coming from? How come I don't see them at Mass on most Sundays?" Wrong questions! Wrong question! Judge not, lest you be judged! St. Paul tells us this morning that "we are Ambassadors for Christ!" So the way I speak, the way I love my life should attract people to come to Mass more regularly! Allow me now, please, to address myself to those who come to Mass on Ash Wednesday, but not on most Sundays. Life is short! It passes by so quickly! Life is tough! Sometimes life is VERY tough! Don't make life tougher on yourself, by trying to go it alone. If you were to return to Mass more regularly, and St. Paul says to us today: "and NOW is the time..." Your life will be so much happier, so much less stressful. So consider coming to Mass more regularly, not just for God's sake, but for your sake as well! And now

I would like to address all of us. Some time ago, a woman told me that she loves the days preceding Lent, because she said, "I can pig out, because I give up chocolate for Lent!" I am not against giving up chocolate for Lent, however, it seems to me that that woman didn't think at all, didn't pray at all about what she was going to do THIS Lent. She does this Lent, what she does every lent – she gives up chocolate. Not much prayer, not much thinking went into that decision. Could we courageously, in order to counteract that, counterbalance that? Could we take a moment, each of us – let's think about what would be the best way for me to spend THIS Lent. It's going to be hard, to change that, if you've been doing it for years – every Lent. But, maybe this Lent, God is leading me in a different direction. "Dear Lord, what would be the best way for me to spend Lent, this year?"

(PAUSE) Dear Jesus, please give each of us, your grace and discernment on how we can best spend these next forty days. "Just a closer walk with thee," grant us if you please. Daily walking close to you, let it be, dear Lord, let it be, this Lent, amen!