



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 – Funeral Homily – 10/01/18

In a moment or two, I will share why I thought this past weekend's readings were very appropriate to Joy, before I do, though see if this can be helpful for each of you gather in the chapel this morning. I had the privilege, over the course of many months, to be with Joy in here toughest times and we had some long and meaningful conversations together. And she made it abundantly clear on multiple occasions that A: she was not afraid of dying at all and B: she was confident that she was going to heaven. Those were part of many conversations with Joy, so I asked myself this question: If Joy was ready to die and was so confident that she was going to heaven, why did she fight so hard, so valiantly and for so long to stay alive? That went through my mind and the conclusion that I reached was that it

was because of YOU! That's the only reason why she went those months and months: all kinds of procedures, all kinds of medications, all kinds of hospitals and doctors and everything she could possibly do – it had to be for you, because she loved you. And as much as she was sure she was going to heaven, she didn't want to leave you – here on earth! What a compliment to you! Now, let me explain why I think the readings we heard on the weekend were applicable to her life. We heard in the Responsorial Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want..." To me that captures Joy – she had the Good Shepherd with her and even though it says, "even though I walk in a dark valley" and her valley was as dark as you can get, "I do not fear, for you are with me!" Then, the first reading from the book of Job, we're going to look at just the last sentence of that reading. To summarize, Job had it all, loaded with money, had all kinds of property and a wonderful family and then it all collapsed on his and everything was taken away – all gone and how did Job respond to that: ""Naked I came into this world and naked I shall leave this world." That's true for all of us – we came into this world with nothing, nothing at all and we'll leave this world with nothing, nothing at all. In the meantime, we try to be grateful for what we have, but when we no longer have it, I had it and now I don't. Then Job was able to say: "the Lord gave, the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord." It is easy to bless the name of the Lord when the Lord gives, it is hard to bless the Lord when we lose everything. Through it all, Joy was able to bless the Name of the Lord. So, if I could end with a little prayer: Dear Joy, please grant to each and to everyone in chapel this morning, the great

grace to be able not to be afraid of death and to be confident that death will bring us to heaven. And Joy give us the grace to be grateful for all that God gives, and help us to accept with dignity, when we begin to lose things in life's toughest times.