



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 – ADVENT 3 – 2017

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..." You can open your ears now, no more singing! But I do want to salute our pastor, Fr. Murphy and those responsible for decorating our church and, of course, more to come – the centerpiece of it all, the Crèche is on its way! This morning we are going to reflect upon the first sentence of our second reading. St. Paul tells us: "Rejoice always, do not cease praying, in all circumstances, give thanks." Rejoice always. It seems to me, for us to rejoice always, becomes from within. We might have ample cause for crying, for tears. We might be coping with grief, with pain, a broken heart, broken body and so much more. But I think we can rejoice always within. Jesus told us at the Last Supper, "My wish is that my joy be within you." Here are three suggestions that

hopefully will help us to rejoice always: First, No matter what may be going on in my day and in my life, if I can try to remember this sentence, I think I can rejoice always: Serenity is the joyful cooperation with the inevitable. I think if I can remember that, I can rejoice always no matter what is going on in my day and in my life. Serenity is the joyful cooperation with the inevitable. Second suggestion that hopefully might help us rejoice always no matter what is going on in my day or in my life is to try to remember these words from St. Paul in Romans 8:28: "For those who love God, everything works for the good. Because of God, everything works for the good. And a third way that will hopefully help us rejoice always no matter what is going on in my day or in my life is for us to stop pining. Our English word happiness comes from the Greek and it means without pining. So, for us to rejoice we have to let go of our "if onlys." "Pray without ceasing." Here, I think is an easy way for us to pray without ceasing. Each day, take a little time to hear God say to you: "I am with you!" If I could hold on to that throughout my day, I think I'm praying without ceasing. I might be driving, but I'm driving with him, I might be listening to music, but I'm listening with him, I might be watching TV, but I'm watching TV with him. I might be having dinner, but I'm having it with him, I might be reading, but I'm reading with him. No matter what I'm doing, if I'm doing it with him, I think I'm praying without ceasing. "In all circumstances give thanks." We read in the Book of Job: "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord." It is easy to give thanks when the Lord giveth. It takes trust to give thanks when the Lord taketh away. In all circumstances, give

thanks. St. Paul tells us: "Everything is gift." So in all circumstances, give thanks.

Everything is gift, not only that which I like in my day and in my life, but everything. In all circumstances give thanks. Maybe we have come full circle. If in all circumstances I give thanks, I think that I am rejoicing always and that I'm praying without ceasing!