



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 – Christmas Eve – 2017

On this very special night – and many people consider Christmas Eve to be THE most special night of the year. Well, on this very special night we have a very special guest speaker, his name is JESUS.

Good evening, it is such a pleasure for me to talk with you tonight! I thank Fr. Danny for this

opportunity! For centuries, it has been said – correctly – that I came to forgive the sins of the world, and I did! But, do you know what? I would have come even if you hadn't sinned! I would come because I



want to be with you. In fact, I came, because I want to be within you! And I am. Do you know who you are to me? You are a glorious gem, a royal diadem whom I hold in the palm of my hand as my prophet Isaiah told you. That's who you are to me. You know who you are to me? I rejoice joyfully because of you. I sing festively as one sings at festivals because of you. That's who you are to me. That's why I came! We'll take a look at a Christmas story and then we'll take a look at some Christmas songs. There are so many Christmas stories, this is one of my favorites. I know Fr. Danny told you this story at least once! Isn't he shameless when it comes to repeating his stories? But it is a good story, so I'm going to tell it to you again. A nine year old boy went into a department store to buy his mother a Christmas present. He said to the sales clerk, "I'd like to buy mom a pair of pajamas for Christmas." The sales clerk asked, "What size is she?" But the boy didn't know. So the sales clerk asked, "Well is she tall, short, thin, small?" the boy thought

for a while and then replied proudly, "She's perfect, my mom is perfect!" Well the sales clerk smiled and then selected a nifty pair of pajamas, size medium. Two days after Christmas the boy's mother returned the nifty size medium pajamas for size extra-large.

I love that story because the boy saw his mom as perfect even though she wasn't. That's how I see you. Despite the flaws and your faults, like the little boy who loved his mom as she was, I love you as you are no matter what size pajamas you wear. Now let's look at some Christmas songs. I'll just mention a few of my favorites: "Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the holy Bible says, Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day. Hark now hear the Angels sing, listen to what they say, we will live forever more because of Christmas day!" "Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." "O little town of Bethlehem,

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Now here's my favorite and I'm going to ask Fr. Danny to tell it to you."

(Fr. Danny at the Crèche) "O holy night, the stars are brightly shining. This is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt his worth. A thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born. O night divine, o night, o night divine!"