



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 2 – 2017

This morning we're going to reflect upon two sentences from our first reading. And then we're going to reflect upon two sentences from our second reading. From our first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, God says to us: "Comfort, give comfort to my people. Speak tenderly to them, tell them that their guilt is expiated." And then we hear in our first reading how God comforts us, speaks tenderly to us, forgives us: "Like a shepherd he feeds flock, gathers his lambs in his arms, holding them carefully, close to his heart, leading them home." Dear God, please give me the great grace to believe and experience what you tell me in this morning's first reading: that you feed me and forgive me, that you hold me and hug me and that you lead me home, home to heaven. Take a look at our second reading from the Second Letter of St. Peter. We'll start with this silly story which I know that I told you

before. The reason I am repeating it is that it ties in with what we hear in our second reading, that "with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like one day." So I ask God, "If a thousand years to you is like one day, what is a million years like to you?" God answered, "A million years to me is like a minute." "If a million years is like a minute, what is a million dollars like to you?" God answered, "A million dollars to me is like a penny!" "Dear God, could I have a penny please?" God replied, "Sure! In a minute!"

Last Sunday a woman comes up to me and she says, "From now on, when I come to Holy Cross, I'm going to wear my highest heels because, otherwise, your jokes would sail right over my head!" Now we'll get right into our second reading from the Second Letter of St. Peter. St. Peter asks, what I consider, a very important question, in our reading. Here's what St. Peter asked: "What sort of person, ought you to be?" Could we all reflect for a moment on what sort of person ought you to be? (PAUSE) Of course our answers will vary, but here's a possible example of the sort of person all of us ought to be. Last week, the New York Yankees hired Aaron Boone to be their new baseball manager. One of the reasons they hired Aaron Boone was because the Yankees knew he was a person of integrity. In the year 2004 when he was a player for the Yankees, he signed a 5.3 million dollar contract for the upcoming season. Two weeks later, while playing basketball, he broke his ankle and he was lost for the entire upcoming season. Immediately upon breaking his ankle playing basketball, he called the Yankees and told them what he had done, knowing full well that playing basketball is forbidden and would void his 5.3 million dollar contract. He could

easily have lied and told the Yankees that he broke his ankle some other way, but he told the truth. His contract was voided, but his integrity was intact! Dear God, please help me be a person of integrity no matter what the consequences!