



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 – 21st Sunday of the Year 2019

We'll start with a stale, silly story – a sad excuse for a joke. But, it remotely ties in with our Gospel! This guy was attending a very, very fiery evangelical conference. The huge auditorium was packed to the rafters, but he spotted an empty chair right up front. When he reached it, he asked the woman who was sitting next to it, "is this seat saved?" She replied, "no, but we're praying for it!" I TOLD you it was a sad excuse for a joke, I warned you! But here is how it fits in with our Gospel. Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" God tells us, in the book of the Prophet Isaiah, "Even if your sins are crimson red, I will make them as white as snow. Even if your sins are as many as the sands on the seashore, I will wipe them all away." In the era in which I grew up, it seems as if no one read that, no

one heard that. In the era in which I grew up, God was presented as often annoyed, angry. God never smiled and was mostly in a bad mood. If you didn't sin, if you kept all the rules and regulations, then God loved you. But, if you DID sin, and if you DIDN'T keep all the rules and regulations, then God didn't love you. If you'd shape up, God loves you, if you messed up, God doesn't love you. How could that be God whose name is LOVE? Once upon a time, there was a college senior named Tim who had an enormous crush on a college junior named Fiona. Fiona was totally gorgeous, was charming, witty, she laughed easily and often. She had a smile that dazzled, eyes that danced. She was very popular. Tim figured "Fiona doesn't even know I exist, Fiona could never like me." Tim's friends told him, "Do you notice the way Fiona looks at you? She is always flirting with you! Why don't you ask her out on a date?" Tim figured, "Nah, Fiona could never like me!" Fiona's friends urged him to ask her out, they said, "She's crazy about you, she's dying to spend time with you!" Tim figured, "Nah, Fiona could never like me!" Tim's mother even said, "Do you see how that young woman is in love with you?" But Tim shrugged it off. For the moment, there are none so blind as they who will not see. Fiona always managed to sit next to Tim in all the classes that they shared. Fiona always managed to sit next to Tim in the cafeteria where all the students ate. But Tim still didn't get it, he figured, "Nah, Fiona could never like me!" In the last, that is the end of the story except for me to tell you that of course, Fiona represents God. Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" What do you think?