



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 – 22nd Sunday of the Year 2019

Today, our first reading teaches us: "What is too sublime for you, seek not; into things beyond your strength, search not." Some years ago, I was the priest of the wedding of Tommy and Patricia. Tommy was twenty, Patricia was nineteen. It was a joyous celebration. The church was crowded with their large families and many friends. The next day, they came to Hawaii for their honeymoon. While there, surfing, Tommy drowned. Patricia returned home on the same plane that carried Tommy's casket. She was a widow at nineteen. Eight days after their wedding Mass, their large families and many friends gathered in the same church for Tommy's funeral Mass. Why? Why does God allow these things to happen and I bet you, each of us has a Tommy and Patricia story. Some of them might

involve our self! How could such a good and gracious God allow so many tears, so many tragedies? I don't know why. I don't think anyone knows why. But perhaps these sentences from our first reading can provide peace when we're tormented over the agonizing question – why. "What is too sublime for you, seek not; into things beyond your strength, search not." Psalm 131 says something very similar: "I busy not myself with great things nor with things too sublime for me, rather, like the little child on its mother's lap, so my soul rests in you, my Lord." A little child doesn't have to know why; it just has to trust its mother. You and I don't have to know why; we just have to trust our God. "What is too sublime for you, seek not; into things beyond your strength, search not." In our Gospel this morning, Jesus preaches a parable about how people at banquets and receptions are vying for places of honor. Why? Because they want to feel important. It's not wrong to want to feel important because the fact of the matter is, you ARE important. God says to each of us: "Before you were born, I knew you. I knit you in your mother's womb, you are very precious in my sight and I love you." That's how important you are, each of us is! It seems to me what Jesus is teaching us today is for us to know WHY we're important. What makes us important is not where we sit, what makes us important is who we are. And each of us is God's beloved child. That's who we are and that's what make us important. Sometimes, we might think that other things make us important or we try to think that they would make us feel important. An example: We might think we're important because of our skills, our competency, our productivity that that's what makes us important, but it doesn't.

Eventually, our skills, our competency, our productivity will fade, will lessen. Then, what will you do? Do you keep the wisdom of the old sage who says: "If I am what I do, when I don't then I ain't!" What I do changes, who I am never changes. Rosa Parks said it so well. In 1955 she was sitting in a seat up front in a bus in Birmingham, Alabama and she was challenged: "You can't sit there! Don't you know who you are?" Rosa says, "Yes, I do know who I am and that's why I am sitting here. God taught me who I am, I am God's beloved child – that's who I am." So is each of us and that's what makes each of us important.