



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 – 24th Sunday of the Year 2019

Boy, I tell you, you are a tough crowd! Last Sunday, after Mass one of you says to me, "Fr. Your homily was quite warm!" And when I inquired, "What does 'quite warm' mean?" He replied, "well...it certainly wasn't too hot!" Dan, our music director, tells me whether or not I should scrub that one! We're going to get right into today's homily. Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. Even though that hymn was written centuries after St. Luke's Gospel was written, you could say that it was based on today's Gospel: The parable of the Lost Sheep, the Parable of the Lost Coin, the Parable of the Lost Son. All three parables, gently yet powerfully reveal how God loves and forgives each of us. The Parable of the Lost Sheep –

even though I am only one among a hundred, Jesus goes after me. Even if I were one among one million, Jesus would come after me, as if I am the only one! Down through the centuries, spiritual writers tell us that Jesus would die on the cross just for me. That's how God loves and forgives me and each of us. The Parable of the Lost Coin – the woman invites all her friends and neighbors to come together to rejoice with her when she finds her lost coin. That's how God loves and forgives me and each of us, not grudgingly, but joyfully, exuberantly. Now we'll take a look at the Parable of the Lost Son. It is called the Parable of the Prodigal Son but it could be called the Parable of the Indulgent Father. The man is quite insanely good, don't you think. I mean he has two miserable, rotten sons, but he loves and forgives each of them beyond all reason. The son who left home did so because his father was living too long. He didn't want to wait any longer for his father to finally die so that he could get his share of the inheritance. And when he returned home, he did so because he was hungry, he did so for his own comfort. He wanted to resume the good life that he had so foolishly left behind. What does the father do? He embraces him. The father had to know what his son was about. He runs after him, he kisses him and embraces him. The other son was mean, narrow, rigid, and resentful. He was as UN-forgiving as his father was forgiving. And his father says to him, "All that I have is yours." When we reflect upon this story, could ask ourselves, how could the father put up with his two unsavory sons? They were his children, and because they were his children he loved and forgave them. You and I are God's children – each of us is. So God always loves and forgives us in quite the same

