



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 – 5th Sunday of the Year 2019

Before we get into our homily this evening, let's take at least, a little look, at World Marriage Day. Each year, the second Sunday of February is World Marriage Day; a day when we honor the wonderful vocation of marriage. Well it's a good thing that we dedicate at least one day to honor marriage because, I'll tell you, what I've been hearing about marriage is terrible! Just last weekend, standing outside of the church and I hear two women talking to each other and one says to the other, "Here's an example of how dumb my husband is, he says to me, 'I just read that seventy-five percent of the stories on the internet are not true!' When I asked, him where did you read that? He replied, 'on the internet!' " Then she says, "Last year, my husband took me out to dinner for Valentine's day, but all he had was shrimp cocktail – one shrimp and five cocktails!" Now let me tell you something, the husbands are

not much better! Last week standing out there, I hear one guy say to the other, "You know, my wife told me that I should be more romantic. So last night, I took her for a long walk and I said, 'Honey – look at all the stars in the sky!' And then she said, 'well where ELSE would they be?'" But then, he said, "But I got back at her! One night she comes in and said, 'Wow, I must look pretty good at my age – all day men were whistling at me!' I told her, 'That was the feedback from their hearing-aids!' Enough of that, we're going to get right into the homily, but in all seriousness, we do honor and salute all married couples! In our second reading, we hear St. Paul say, "By the grace of God, I am, what I am." By the grace of God I am what I am; by the grace of God YOU are who YOU are! What am I, what are you? We are sinners, all of us. In each of our three scripture readings, this evening, we hear about sinners. Isaiah says, "Woe of me, I am a person of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips." St. Paul says, "I am the least of the Apostles, after what I have done, I am not fit to be called an Apostle." St. Peter says, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" So, Isaiah, Paul and Peter all acknowledge that they are sinners, BUT, they didn't allow their sins to bog them down, did they? Instead, they received and rejoiced in God's healing mercy, in God's infinite forgiveness. You and I, sinners like them, we have to do the same! We have to receive and rejoice in God's healing mercy, in God's infinite forgiveness. Then, like them, we have to rise from our sins and lead lives filled with inner joy and inner peace! By the Grace of God I am what I am. What am I? What are you? I am God's beloved precious child and so are you. Last week, through the prophet Jeremiah, God said to each of

us: "Before you were born, I knew you, I formed you, and I knit you in your mother's womb." Two weeks before that through the prophet Isaiah, God said to each of us, " You are a glorious gem in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God. The Lord rejoices in you and marries you! Just as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so does the Lord rejoice in you." Can you and I believe the Psalmist in Psalm 139 and say with the Psalmist, "I give you thanks O Lord, that I am so wonderfully made?" If I can say that, I won't waste any more time and energy protecting my fragile ego. I won't be so easily hurt, so easily threatened. I won't be so subject to jealousy and insecurity. I'll be able to shed all my masks and be the real me, the me God created me to be! "I give you thanks, O Lord that I am so wonderfully made." "By the Grace of God, I am, what I am," And so are you!