



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 1 – 2018

Comedian George Burns once quipped: "A sermon should have a good beginning and a good ending – and the two should be as close together as possible!" Let's see if that happens with us this afternoon. December 1 – twenty-four more days. Every day, the Day is coming closer, going faster than a roller coaster. And that day, of course is Christmas. The twenty-four days of Advent will hopefully help us to prepare for Christmas. Two suggestions, as to how we might spend the next twenty-four days. The first suggestion is that we try to remain calm and centered. The next twenty-four days are arguably the busiest, most hectic days of the year. There is so much to do and perhaps you have a tape playing in your head: "I'll never get it all done!" Well, even if you don't get it all done, the world will still go on,

Christmas will still come, those who love you – will still love you; even if you don't get it all done. Several years ago, I didn't send out any Christmas cards because I made a choice that rather than be rushed and running, so that I could get my Christmas cards done, instead I tried to stay calm and centered, preparing for Christmas. And, I still have family and friends, thank God, even though they didn't get a Christmas card from me! You and I will agree that prayer is the best preparation for Christmas. As long as I get that done, it doesn't really matter if I don't get anything else done. Calm and centered is our first suggestion this Advent. Our second suggestion for the next twenty-four days is for each of us to become a healer. Something that we all have in common is the incredible fact that all of us can heal! We can all heal, because we can all heal hearts. Sometimes when you heal hearts, bodies are healed as well. Everyone needs healing! Even the ones who appear to be the most cheerful, who seem to have it all together – everyone needs healing and we can all heal! I called a friend of mine to wish him a Happy Thanksgiving. His reply was: "Happy Thanksgiving! What do I have to be happy about? My wife is dead, my children are grown and live elsewhere, I'm all alone! What's there to be happy about??" That poor man needs healing! A priest-friend of mine was able to take care of himself up until recently, when he fell several times. Thank God, nothing was broken but he was told that he could no longer drive and that he needed a caretaker to be with him twelve hours a day. Almost instantly, he lost his independence, he lost his privacy. That poor priest needs healing! You and I – we all know people who need healing. And we can all heal – with a glance, a look, a smile, a note, a call,

