



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 – 2019

Tonight, we'll reflect first upon the Scriptures and then we'll reflect upon the Season. The scriptures: Let's see what Isaiah is saying to us in our first reading. Isaiah tells us to turn our swords into plowshares, our spears into pruning hooks and he tells us not to train for war. Our twenty-first century version of swords and spears are everywhere. And war is constantly being waged both among nations and also among peoples. So, this advent you might ask yourself, what can I do to help bring about the peace of which Isaiah speaks? What can I do to help bring about that peace this advent? A suggestion, St. James tells us that the weapon that is most deadly, the weapon that has done more harm than any other weapon, St. James tells us that that weapon is the human tongue. So, perhaps during this advent, I can turn

my spears and swords into plowshares and pruning hooks by controlling the deadly weapon of my tongue, and turning it into an instrument of peace. We can do that!! How, how about this? Starting today and throughout advent, for you not to say anything except good things to others, not say anything except good things about others. How about, starting today throughout advent that you do not say anything unkind to anyone, starting today throughout advent that you do not say anything unkind about anyone. We can do that!!

The Season: The next twenty-four days are arguably the busiest, the most stressful days of the year. You might be hearing a tape playing in your head saying: "Christmas is only a few weeks away and I will never get anything done!" Even if you don't get everything done, so what! So what, the world will still go on even if you don't get everything done. Christmas will still come, even if you don't get everything done. The people you love will still love you even if you don't get everything done. Prayer is the best preparation for Christmas. If I get that done, that's what counts even if I don't get everything else done. Are you ready for a real challenge for this Advent? This is on the Major League level of challenges. This is a real challenge for you and for me this advent. The scriptures say, "My Soul in Stillness waits." Of course, what our soul is waiting for is the coming of Christ this Christmas. So, during the next twenty-four days, if you find yourself racing, rushing, if you find yourself stressed, pull back and pray: "My Soul in Stillness waits."