



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 2 – 2019

This morning you and I will reflect together upon our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah. Last Sunday, in our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Isaiah told us to "turn our swords into plowshares, our spears into pruning hooks." He told us that "one nation shall not raise the sword against another" and he told us that "they shall not train for war again." In the first reading this Sunday, Isaiah continues that: "then the wolf will be the guest of the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the young lion shall play together with a child to guide them. The cow and the bear will be neighbors; together, their young shall rest. The lion shall eat hay like the ox, the baby shall play in the cobra's den, the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on my holy mountain." Wouldn't

you love to live in a world like that – a world of tranquility and peace. Of course, you would, we ALL would. Let's take a look at how you and I can help bring about the tranquility and peace of which Isaiah speaks. It seems to me that this is the IDEAL time for us to try to do that, not because it's Advent, but also because, I think people are becoming weary of war. At least I hope so! I think people are becoming disgusted by stories of violence and cruelty. At least I hope so! I think people have had enough of uncivil, rude, profane language. At least I hope so! I think people are more realizing that to live a life of lust, greed, self-centeredness, is to live an empty life. I think people are longing to live in the tranquility and peace of which Isaiah speaks. At least I hope so. What can you and I do to help bring that about? A suggestion. Sometime today or tonight for each of us to ask ourselves, Am I at peace? Often we sing: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." If I am at peace, I'll be better able to bring about peace. Am I at peace? Am I at peace with myself? Do I love myself? Do I like myself? Do I realize and believe that I am wonderfully, carefully, uniquely made? Do I allow myself to make mistakes? Do I forgive myself for the mistakes that I have made? Am I at peace with myself? Am I at peace with others? Do I harbor hurts and resentments? Do I accept other people as they are, not as the way I think they should be? Do I forgive all other people, all the time, no matter what? Am I threatened by others? Am I jealous of others? Am I possessive of others? Am I at peace with others? Am I at peace with God? Recently I read a story of a man who was in prison for having committed some horrible sexual crimes. Every single week for six years, the

father of that man visited his son in the prison and every single week, for six years, the son refused to see him. Whether it was out of shame, out of guilt, self-hatred – whatever, the son always refused to see his father. And the father always came back to see his son. The father is the picture of God. God never gives up on me. God always goes after me, God always forgives me, always loves me no matter what! Am I at peace with God? “then the wolf will be the guest of the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the young lion shall play together with a child to guide them. The cow and the bear will be neighbors; together, their young shall rest. The lion shall eat hay like the ox, the baby shall play in the cobra’s den, the child lay his hand on the adder’s lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on my holy mountain.” The picture of tranquility and peace of which Isaiah speaks, let it be, Lord, please let it be!