



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 3– 2019

Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for "to Rejoice." We'll get into Gaudete Sunday in just a minute, but first, I'll share with you a conversation between a father and his teenage son. "Son, do you realize that when he was your age, Abraham Lincoln was already studying to be a lawyer?" "Dad, do you realize that when he was your age, Abraham Lincoln was already President of the United States?" Well, the father had a chance to rectify that. One day, his son announced, "I'm going to buy a new cell phone." He claimed that, "the phone that I carry says a lot about who I am!" The father told him, "well then, you won't be getting a SMART phone!" We'd better get right into Gaudete Sunday: Gaudete, Latin for "To Rejoice." Now, the Church is encouraging us to rejoice today, what if you don't feel like

rejoicing today, what then? Here are some suggestions: From a Rabbi: "At the judgment, you will be held accountable for all the times you could have rejoiced, but did not. From a theologian: "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." From a mystic: "The greatest honor you can give God is to live gladly." From a saint: "For those who love God everything works for the good." Rejoicing is trusting that God knows best. Rejoicing is trusting that God's ways are not my ways because God's ways are much better than my ways. Rejoicing is replacing fear with peace, trusting that whatever God allows to happen to me will work out for the good. Rejoicing is allowing God's will to unfold freely and fully in my life. Gaudete Sunday: to Rejoice. Soo, ten days to go! Throughout all of Advent especially in these final ten days, the Church prays "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus, Come." How can you and I help prepare ourselves and our whole world for the coming of Christ this Christmas? Consider: every year, during the first three centuries of our Church, the numbers increased tremendously every year for three centuries. One explanation for this phenomenal growth could be how Christians reacted when plagues savaged the entire empire, as it did at least once every century. During those instances, the pagans fled in panic. They did not help the sick, they did not bury the dead, but the Christians stayed! They stayed and they cared for the sick; everyone: Pagans as well as Christians. And they buried the dead; everyone: Pagans as well as Christians. And their survivor rate was much higher because when you help others you are helping yourself. And so, so many converts turned to Christianity when they saw what the Christians were doing. As Jesus says: "Father, the way the world will know you, is

how they love one another." So, how can you and I help prepare ourselves, help prepare our world for the coming of Christ this Christmas? By being Him in our midst, by loving, forgiving, helping, healing. Ten days to go! "Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus, come!"