



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 – Christmas Day – 2019

(With PAUSES for opportunities for reflection)

In a few moments, you and I are going to reflect on some Christmas carols. Before we do, allow me to offer this Christmas suggestion to you. Today, when you gaze upon the crèche in the church or perhaps you have a crèche in your home, throughout today try to hear Jesus say to you: "I came because I love you." The message of Christmas is Jesus saying to you, Jesus saying to me, Jesus saying to each of us: "I came because I love you." That's the message of Christmas. The message of Christmas is what Isaiah tells each one of us, "The Lord delights in you and makes you his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, so shall your builder marry you. As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall you God rejoice in

you." (Pause) That's the message of Christmas. The message of Christmas is what God tells us in the book of the prophet Zephaniah: "I rejoice over you with gladness, I sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals." (Pause) That's the message of Christmas. The message of Christmas is what God tells us in the book of the prophet Isaiah: "You are a crown, a royal diadem whom I hold in my hand." (Pause) That's the message of Christmas. So, throughout today, try to hear Jesus say: "I came because I love you. That's the message of Christmas. Now, let's reflect on some Christmas carols; some of them contemporary, some of them traditional. "Holy Child within the manger, long ago, yet ever near. Come as friend to every stranger, come as hope to every fear." "Every nation, every race, every person wears your face. Come anew O child of our dreams." "Long ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible say, Mary's boy child Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day. Hark, (now hear) the herald angels sing, a new king born today and man shall live forever more because of Christmas Day." "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." And, of course, "O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining. This is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, oh night when Christ was born. O night divine, O night, O night divine.