



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 Eve/Day – 2018

Tonight you and I are going to reflect together upon some Christmas songs. Before we do, allow me to make this suggestion to you: tonight, when you gaze upon the crèche, whether it be at your home, or here in church, try to hear Jesus saying this to you, "Even if you have not sinned, I would have come for you. I came for you because I love you; you – with all your flaws, faults, with all the skeletons in your closet." The message of Christmas is Jesus saying to you, saying to me, saying to each of us, "I Love You." Earlier tonight, at the Vigil Mass, the Prophet Isaiah told each of us: "The Lord delights in you and makes you his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, so will the Lord, your builder, marry you. As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will the Lord rejoice in you." The bells that we hear at this time of year are not silver bells, they're not jingle bells, they are wedding bells. God is

espoused to us! God is joined to me for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health and in moral sickness and holy health. God is joined to me all the days of my life. And, because of Christmas, God is joined to me for all eternity. God delights in you, God rejoices in you, God marries you. That is the message of Christmas. As you gaze into the crèche tonight, try to remember that message of Christmas. OK, now we'll have some Christmas songs. First will be a secular song and then we'll have some sacred songs – Christmas carols. For the secular song, strong suggestion: listen to the lyrics, do NOT listen to the melody!

Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus right down Santa Claus Lane. He doesn't care if you're rich or poor, he loves you just the same. Santa knows we're all God's children that makes everything right. Fill your hearts with Christmas joy, 'cause Santa's coming tonight!

I really love Santa Clause, what's there not to like. He's always kind, he never forgets the forgotten. He gives you, whether you're naughty or nice and none of us deserves the gifts he gives us. You know what? I just described Santa Clause, I also just described Jesus, didn't I? If Santa Clause is just for children, I am resigning from adulthood. But, poor Santa! This afternoon, Santa had to go to the doctor because he was so tired – busy week. So he said to the doctor: "What do I need to do to be at my very best tonight?" The doctor said, "Santa, just believe in yourself." (the joke bombs... lol) So uh...we'll forget about that one and let's have a look at some sacred Christmas songs! "Hark we hear the angels sing, a new king born today and we will love for ever more because of Christmas day. Peace on earth and mercy

mild, God sinners reconciled. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright." And now for my all-time favorite: "Oh 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, oh hear the angel voices, o night divine, on night