



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 – Feast of the Assumption 2019

It seems to me a big mistake that we might make is to not think often enough about Mary. Perhaps a way to avoid that mistake is for us to realize that Mary is not someone who is easy to admire, but hard to imitate. But rather, Mary is one of us! Mary is like us in so many ways. We first meet Mary when she is the object of ugly rumors – that she is pregnant without a husband. Have you ever suffered from false rumors, malicious gossip? Have you ever been misunderstood, maligned? Mary is one of us! Then we notice Mary with the very human emotions of anxiety and fear, having been spoken to by an angel, having been told that she was to become the mother of the Son of God. Mary was deeply troubled and wondered what all of this meant. Have you ever been scared, confused, filled with questions such as "why is this happening to me?" Mary is one of us! After the birth of Jesus, she and

her husband and her infant fled to a foreign land. Have you ever gone to a different country? Have you ever visited a different job, a different school, a different neighborhood, a different parish? You didn't know anyone, you were lonely. Mary is one of us! Mary was a widow who returned to an empty home, an empty bed. Mary is one of us! Her son was betrayed by someone whom Mary must have had to her home many a time, for meals, for conversations. Mary knows ingratitude. Mary is one of us! Mary saw her son arrested. How many of us parents have seen one of our children arrested, by the police, by scandal, by addiction or by some other heartbreak? Mary is one of us! Finally, Mary cradled the body of her dead son in her lap. When you sob, when you grieve over someone whom you love, Mary is one of us! Now, I am going to share with you my favorite story about Mary. Almost assuredly you have heard this story before because it is as old as your grandmother and has been told many many times. It's a story that suggests that God loves us as tenderly as a mother loves her infants. It's a story that suggests that we're not just creatures, we're not just sinners, but, more than anything else, we're beloved children. One day, Jesus was making a tour through heaven and he noticed there were a lot of new residents who didn't belong there not until they spent a long, long time in purgatory and some of them needed a last minute appeal! So, Jesus complains to St. Peter, the gatekeeper, "You're letting a lot of people in who don't belong here!" "I didn't do it!" "Well if you didn't do it, then who did??" "You're not going to like the answer!" "Tell me anyhow!" "When I don't let them the front gate, they go around to the back one and your mother lets them all in!" One of the last

