



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 – Fifth Sunday of Lent – 2019

We have a lot of good stuff in our scriptures today, upon which we'll reflect. But, before we do that, I have to do this. This is our fifth Lent together and in the four previous Lents, I told you this story. This story you can tell only during Lent and since this is the last Sunday of Lent – I can't resist! So, here goes! It's the story of this Irishman who, on his way home from work, would stop at his favorite pub and order three pints of Guinness. After a while, the bartender asked him, "Why don't you order one pint at a time? When you finish the first pint, I'll bring you the second; when you finish the second pint, I'll bring you the third!" "Oh, no," protested the Irishman, "I promised my two brothers in Ireland that I would have a drink with them every night." So this went on for a while longer until, one night he ordered only two pints. So the bartender, trying to console him, said "Oh, I'm so

sorry for your loss! Since you ordered only two pints, that must mean that one of your brothers in Ireland died?!" "Not at all," he smiled, "You see, I gave up drinking for Lent, but my two brothers didn't!" We had better get right into the homily! You probably have heard this stale, old joke connected with the story of the Woman caught in Adultery? When Jesus said, "Let the one without sin be the first to cast a stone!" He then felt a stone whizz by his head and he turned around and said, "Now cut that out, MOM!" The story of the Woman caught in Adultery reveals to us the gentleness of Jesus, his tender forgiveness, how he always treated all women with the utmost of equality and respect. Now, let's see if we can connect that story with one sentence of each of our first two readings. From our first reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Remember not the events of the past. Consider not the events that were." You know, we can be imprisoned by our past. Whether what's imprisoning us occurred yesterday or many years ago, whether they are trivial or tragic, we can become, if we allow ourselves, imprisoned by our past. The other day I said something I shouldn't have said, the minute I said it, I knew I shouldn't have said it. Had this occurred years ago, I would have spent half the night pacing the floor, continually asking myself, ""Why did you say that? How stupid of you!" I would have beaten myself up over it. The other day, I acknowledged to myself that I was wrong. I hope that I can learn a lesson from my mistake so that I don't repeat it. I will apologize to the person to whom I said what I said and then I'll LET IT GO! I can't unsay what I said. I can't undo what I did, but I can let it go. I don't have to beat myself up over it. I don't have to carry it around

