



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 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 12, 2019

Some stories are seasonal. I know, I have told you this story before, but this is the only time of the year when I can tell it. So, I am going to tell it to you again. As you know, some of our parishioners are in Lourdes for their annual pilgrimage. That reminds me of the story when my dad, God be good to him, went to Lourdes. On the way back, he stopped off in Ireland. When he arrived home, as he was unpacking, my mom noticed a large plastic container, and when she asked him what was in it, my dad said, "Uh...that's holy water from Lourdes..." Well, my mom knew my dad! So, she opened it and confronted him: "This smells like Irish whiskey!" My dad looked up to heaven, rolled his eyes and said, "Oh my God, another miracle!" Well, we've got a lot of stuff going on in our liturgy today. Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. It's called that because of our Gospel story. We're not going to

reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd today, because our Gospel story is not the full story of how Jesus is the Good shepherd. I am going to suggest that you read the full story of Jesus the Good Shepherd in chapter ten of the Gospel of St. John – it's a gem! Today is Vocation Sunday, a day when we request that you pray for priests, that you pray for more priests and that you pray for THIS priest, please. And, today is Mother's Day – the day when we honor and pray for our mom – whether she be living or deceased. One of the aspects of Mother's Day that I love is that Mother's Day unites all of us. We're not all mothers – men are not mothers, many women are not mothers. And many of those women would love to be mothers but, for one reason or another, they aren't. And today can bring back some sad memories for some of us: perhaps our mother died recently and the pain is still raw. Perhaps we had an abortion and the memory of that day haunts us this day. Perhaps we never knew our mother very well. But Mother's Day unites all of us because we all had the same mother: Mary, our Blessed Mother. And because we all have or had a mother. Each year, on Mother's Day I try to honor my mom by singing to her a little song. Now my mother knows that I can't sing, but I sing it from the heart. Suggestion, when I'm singing this song to my mom, you think of your mom. "M is for the million things she gave me, O only means she's growing old, T are for the tears she shed to bear me, H is for her heart as pure as gold, E are for her eyes with love-light shining, R, means right and right she'll always be. Put them all together any you have MOTHER, the word that means the world to me."

Thank you mom! Dear Jesus, thank you for the great gift of our mothers. If she's still living,

