



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 – 32nd Sunday of the Year 2018

Some people are uncomfortable with public speaking. Last Sunday I joined their ranks! Last Sunday, I asked Dan, our music director to gesture to me if my volume during the homily was appropriate. Dan would gesture with his hands cupping his ears signaling: "too low!" Or Dan would put his hands on his head signifying "too loud!" Last Sunday, when I looked over to Dan during the homily, this was the gesture he gave me: (pinched nose). Today, we're going to reflect on the wonderful virtue of generosity as witnessed by the two widows in our readings. Before we reflect on the virtue of generosity, let's take a look at Elijah in our first reading, thanking the widow for a small cupful of water. And Jesus, in our Gospel reading praising the widow for putting in a few cents into the Temple treasury. Maybe a

lesson for us from those two stories could be: "I count – what I do counts – Jesus notices – Jesus always notices." Now let's reflect on the wonderful virtue of generosity. We hear in our Gospel reading this morning that Jesus sat down opposite the Temple treasury and observed people putting money into the treasury. It doesn't seem very much to me like Jesus to be noticing how much money people put into the treasury, but then I realized that Jesus speaks often about money. Here are some statistics that I recently read. Sixteen out of his thirty-eight has Jesus speaking about the use of money and possessions. One out of every ten verses in the Gospels speak directly about money. The Bible offers about 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith but over 2,000 verses on money. Money might be an important barometer of my spiritual life – how I use money. One of the aspects about the virtue of generosity is that it has a domino effect. If I am generous with my money, I'll probably be generous with my time as well. And, if I'm generous with my time and money, I'll probably be generous with my patience and with my tolerance for both others and myself. And, I'll be more apt to give myself and others the benefit of the doubt – second chances. The virtue of generosity has a domino effect throughout a lot of areas in our lives. Are you cheap? I don't mean frugal, I mean CHEAP! One of the problems with being cheap is that it has a domino effect. If I'm cheap, if I'm stingy, if I'm that kind of person? Well, then I am probably not a grateful person. If I'm a stingy person, I'm probably not a happy person. If I'm a stingy person, I might be stingy in giving others the limelight. I might be self-centered, I might be closed in on me, if I'm stingy. And could it be that if I'm

