



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 – ADVENT 2 – 2018

Isn't it true that during this season many people try to feel "Christmassy". They decorate their homes festively, they listen to Christmas music, they watch Christmas movies, and they go to Christmas parties, and so on. And, of course, none of that is bad, but I think there is a much better way to have the Christmas spirit and it comes to us from our Responsorial Psalm of our Mass this morning, Psalm 126: "The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy!" If I'm thankful for all the great things the Lord has done for me throughout my whole life, then I'll be filled with joy. And isn't being filled with joy, the Christmas Spirit. If I'm not thankful for all the great things the Lord has done for me throughout my life, then I won't be filled with joy and no matter how hard I try, I will not have the spirit of Christmas. Let's see if this story ties in with the story of Christmas. When I was about five or six years – wow, that's fifty years ago! My friends and I often would play the game called Musical Chairs. Here's what we did: let's say there were seven children involved. Well the seven children would form a circle, in the middle of the circle there would be six chairs. As the music would start, the children would slowly walk around the chairs. When the music would suddenly stop, and all seven children would quickly dash to get on one of the six chairs. Now, of course, one child was necessarily left out. That routine

would continue until there were two children and one chair and then one child would win. Here's how I think they play the game of musical chairs in heaven. There would be seven children in a circle – in the middle of the circle there would be six chairs. The music will start and the seven people will slowly walk around the six chairs. Suddenly, the music would stop and the six people who had a chair would all beckon to the one who didn't to "come, sit on my lap!" In heaven, no one is left out. In heaven, everyone wins! Christmas is not all about how I feel. Christmas is all about how I live!