



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 Lent – 2018

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent. It's known as Laetare Sunday – Laetare means, "to rejoice"; the church encourages us to rejoice today, because we are half way to the joy of Easter. Here are two other reasons why we can rejoice today, the first is silly, the second is scriptural. One reason why we can rejoice today is because, I know for a fact that the world is not going to end today! Why? Because it is already tomorrow in Australia! Do I keep that one? Dan tells me after Mass whether or not to keep or discard! NOW, other reasons, scriptural reasons, why we can rejoice today: In our second reading, St. Paul tells us; "You are God's handiwork." In another translation, it says, "You are God's work of art!" The Old Testament puts it this way: in the book of the prophet Isaiah, God says to each of us: "You

are a gem, a royal diadem, whom I hold in the palm of my hand." Is that how you see yourself, as "a work of art", as "a gem?" That's how God sees you, is that how YOU see you? What I am about to do now, I very much hesitate to do because what I am about to do now is to talk about myself. And I know that you come to Mass, not to hear the priest talk about himself, but to hear the priest talk about God! The reason why I am about to talk about myself, for a little bit this morning, is because I think this could be helpful for each of us. Now, while I am talking about myself, perhaps you can be thinking about yourself, and then you and I can hear God speaking to us. This is how I think God created me. One day, God said: "You know, I don't need another Mother Teresa, I already had one of them. I don't need another St. Paul, I already had one of them. I know what I need, I need a Danny Murphy – I've never had one of him before." So God took a little bit from my mom, and he took a little bit from my dad and then he took a whole lot of uniqueness not from anyone else. God then mixed those ingredients together and when it was just the way God wanted it to be and out I came, then God threw away the mold! There will never be another Danny Murphy every again. God does not clone! I am God's unique work of art and SO ARE YOU, each of you – God's unique work of art. God created you – there has never been nor will there ever be another you! You are uniquely God's work of art! The scriptures tell us: "Before you were born, I knew you, I knit you in your mother's womb, you are very precious in my sight and I love you." That's what God says to us in the scriptures. Laetare

Sunday – the church encourages us to rejoice today. I am God's handiwork, YOU are God's handiwork – rejoice indeed!