



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 – Good Friday – March 30, 2018

Good Friday – why do we call this Friday Good? It's a day saturated with sadness, with suffering. It's a day that deals with death and destruction. So why do we call this Friday, Good Friday? We call Good Friday Good, because it is on Good Friday, perhaps more than any other day, that Jesus says to you, to me, to everyone who ever was, and to everyone who ever will be: Jesus says to us: "No matter what you do to me, I will always love you!" Let's take a look at how Jesus handled his suffering and death. Crucifixion was designed by the Romans as capital punishment, but crucifixion was much more than that. Crucifixion designed to inflict optimal pain, on the person being crucified; pain to the absolute limit that anybody could endure. Crucifixion was designed to publically and utterly humiliate the person being crucified. Before he was crucified, Jesus asked his father whether there was

another way to get to Easter Sunday without having to endure Good Friday. He sweated blood and then he prayed: "Father, take this cup from me! But not what I will, but what YOU will." It seems to me that his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane wasn't about whether he should submit to death or invoke his divine power and walk away from it. He accepted that suffering and death were part of his father's plan for him. What Jesus had to decide, during his agony in the garden of Gethsemane wasn't whether to die, but rather it was HOW to die! Do I suffer with bitterness or resentment or do I suffer in trust and in acceptance? We know the choice Jesus made. Isn't that choice the same for you and for me? Suffering is a given. Suffering is a part of every life. It was for Jesus and it is for each one of us! So we don't decide whether we're going to suffer. We do decide HOW we're going to suffer. Am I going to suffer with bitterness, with resentment or am I going to suffer with trust, with acceptance as did Jesus? When we venerate the cross tonight, when we touch it, kiss it, embrace it, in whatever way we may want to give thanks to Jesus for it. Let's put our sufferings, our crosses on to his sufferings, his cross. There is no suffering too much, there is no cross too heavy that he and I can't carry together! Can't endure together! He and I, you and him – you can do it, so can I. Good Friday – why do we call this Friday Good? It's a day saturated with sadness and suffering. It's a day that deals with death and destruction. Why do we call this Friday Good? We call Good Friday Good because on Good Friday, perhaps more than on any other day, Jesus says to us: "No matter what you do to me, I will always love you!"

