



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.

## Danny Murphy – Third Sunday of Lent – 2019

Kind, Loving, Nurturing, Supportive. Those are virtues that we should try to practice year round and certainly during Lent: Kind, Loving, Nurturing, Supportive. Well, I can tell you this, one of you needs to work a little bit harder in practicing those virtues! Last weekend, after Mass, one of you said to me: "Fr. Danny, You should thank you for being so nice to you! When you are preaching, we are so polite that we cover our mouths when we yawn!" That lady, Oo I mean that PERSON, needs to work on Kind, Loving, Nurturing, Supportive! I better get right into the homily...this morning we are going to reflect on the opening sentences of our Gospel story, but before we do, allow me to suggest something that you and I could consider incorporating into our Lent. If you find it difficult to be kind to others, learn to be kind to yourself. If you find it difficult to be loving to others, learn to be

loving to yourself. If you find it difficult to be nurturing and supportive of the needs of others, try to be nurturing and supportive to your own needs. If we are kind, loving, nurturing and supportive to ourselves, I think we will find it easier to be kind, loving, nurturing and supportive to others. Now, let's take a look at our Gospel story where Jesus tells us that Galileans whose blood Pilate mingled were no worse sinners than all the other Galileans and that the eighteen people of Siloam who died when the tower fell upon them were no more guilty than all the other people who lived in Jerusalem. It seems to me that in that little story, Jesus is teaching us a very important lesson. He is teaching us that tremendous truth that sin and suffering go together but not in direct proportion to each other. My sins don't cause my suffering. Your sins don't cause your suffering but OUR sins cause OUR sufferings. It is a hard lesson, but I think it is a very important one for us to try to absorb. So, if I sin fifty times and you sin five times, that doesn't mean that I am going to suffer fifty units and you are going to suffer five units, but it does mean that your five and my fifty add to the suffering in the world. When you are suffering, someone you know is suffering. Well God forbid that when you are beset by tragedy, it is tempting to ask "Why would God do this to me, It is not fair, I don't deserve this!" Hopefully you are beginning to see that that's the wrong question because we don't suffer in proportion to our sins. That's why bad things happen to good people. Before Adam and Eve sinned, the Garden of Eden was paradise – no suffering at all! In heaven, there's no suffering at all, because in heaven, there's no sin. Sin, not God, causes suffering. If you and I want to lead a good Lent, if you

