



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 – Funeral Homily – November 18, 2016

Our Music Director, Dan Kroger, did a little research and concluded that the Catholic Church offers forty-six different scripture readings for a funeral Mass. There are forty-six different choices that we have for a funeral Mass. One of the forty-six that always perplexed me, was today's Gospel. I said to myself for many years: "Why would you say to people who are grieving, that's what people at funeral Masses are doing, right, they're grieving. They lost someone very dear to them. Why would you say to them: 'take my yoke upon you, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light!' " This is not easy; this is hard! This burden is not light, it's heavy. So I said, Why? For years I couldn't figure it out. Then I did a little research and I found out what the word yoke means Y O K E. Now I'm going to give you're the pre-kindergarten, nursery school version of this. You're not gonna have to pass any scripture tests on this based on what I'm gonna tell you, but it works. This what yoke means – it's an agricultural term, maybe we might substitute the word harness. But, if a yoke is placed on the back of a beast of burden, properly – let's say an ox, beast of burden. If a yoke is placed on the back of an ox properly, that ox can carry an incredibly heavy burden, effortlessly! If the yoke is placed on the back properly. If it's not placed, or if it's placed improperly, the ox will balk at even the lightest load. Soo, once I learned what that yoke means, then I translate it into funeral Masses and I translate it into life. If we allow Jesus to place the yoke on our back, we can carry an incredibly heavy burden. No matter how heavy the cross is, if the yoke is placed properly by Jesus on our back, we'll be able to do it – 'cause we're not doing

it alone, we're doing it with him. Certainly, grieving is a heavy burden, Joann – sixty one years! How heavy is that to lose your husband after sixty-one years! And for the four children the eleven grandchildren, all of us it's a heavy burden to grieve. And that's not the only cross that we face in life, is it? The crosses of life are constant. They might change, now this is the cross, ten years ago that was the cross, ten years from now this might be the cross, but it's constant. You can't do it by yourself, you can't do it. You'll be like the ox that balks, grumbles. But if you allow him to put the yoke on your back, you can carry a heavy, heavy cross. He says: "My yoke is easy, my burden is light," because you're not doing it alone, you're doing it with him. We could heed his words. Just before he talked about putting the yoke on he said: "Come to me all you who are