



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 5th Sunday of Lent FL 03-13-16

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Gospel: the Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:1-11)

So much is written about this story including some jokes that have been around for years. Here's one that you might have heard. When Jesus said: "Let the one without sin cast the first stone," almost immediately, he felt a rather large stone go whizzing by his head. He turned around at once and said: "Now cut that out, MOM." Here's another one: A pastor in a rather large church became nervous when he heard so many confess the sin or adultery. The parish council was concerned about his well being that they sent out word to the parishioners, that if they were to confess this sin, they should simply say: "I have fallen..." Well, at the next parish council meeting, the same pastor told the council that he was going

to have to call a contractor fix the sidewalk in front of the church because so many people were telling him that they have fallen!. One of the parish council members began to chuckle, to which the pastor quipped: "What are YOU laughing about, last week your wife told me she fell three times! Moving on with our homily , I just want to comment on the Gospel story by referring to two sentences from the other two readings. Isaiah tells us to: "forget the past – things long ago, consider not." St. Paul tells us to "forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead." Jesus didn't condemn the woman, he FREED the woman by telling her to go forward with her life. The same applies to us as well. If we are imprisoned by the past, Jesus asks us to let it go – to get on with our life. I know a woman who is 89 years old. She had a falling out with her sister 20 years ago and hasn't spoken to her since that day. Do you hold on to grudges or hurts or do you follow Isaiah "forget the past – things long ago consider not." Or consider another sad story of a young woman aged 22 who was driving with her 14 year old brother. There was a terrible accident in which she received minor injuries, but her brother was killed. The accident was not her fault, but she keeps beating herself up over it. She says: "if only this or if only that..." She is attractive and brilliant but she doesn't date, rarely smiles and is always sad. She can't follow St. Paul's advice to "forget what lies behind and strive for what lies ahead." Are you beating yourself up over something. What do you do with your "if onlies". Not long ago, I said something I shouldn't have and immediately regretted it. In the past I would have paced the floor and lost sleep over it, but now I leave my mistakes behind and move on with my life. Pray for

the grace to let it go, or give it to God. If you are in need of confession there is still time and there are two penitential services coming up. If those times don't work for you give me a call and we can schedule a time to get together – we'll make the time. Remember how Jesus treated the woman in the Gospel: he didn't condemn her...he FREED her. He will treat us the same if we too leave it behind and move forward.