



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 another one of his inspirational homilies.

Fr. Danny Murphy – Fifth Sunday of Lent – 2017

So, two weeks 'til Christmas... "APRIL FOOLS!!!" I just wanted to see if you are on the ball! Enough of this, we're gonna get right into this... We're going to reflect on two short sentences from our long Gospel. The first short sentence upon which we'll reflect is: "Jesus wept." When Jesus saw Martha and Mary weeping, he wept. When Jesus sees us weeping, he weeps. Often we don't know why sad and sometimes tragic events occur in our lives and in the lives of other people, but we can know this – when they do occur, Jesus weeps and I think he weeps more than we do. In our Gospel we hear that Jesus loved Martha and Mary. Because he loved them, when they wept, he wept. Jesus loves us, because he loves us, when we weep, he weeps. Jesus wept. The other short sentence from our Gospel upon which we'll reflect comes at the end of it when after he raises Lazarus from the dead he says: "Untie him!" After Jesus raised him from the dead, we don't know what occurred in the rest of Lazarus' life. But if his death experience was similar to people in our time who

have near-death experiences, we can presume that he underwent a sweeping, radical transformation in his life. People tell us, who have had near-death experiences, that they, from that point on in their lives – they tell us that they have less concern for material things, they have a heightened sense of purpose in life, they have a stronger belief in God, they have more joy, they have increased compassion, they have intense feelings of unconditional love. Well...wouldn't you like to live like that? To have less concern for material things, with a heightened sense of your purpose in life, with a strong belief in God, with more joy in your life, with increased compassion and with loving intensely and unconditionally, being loved as intensely and unconditionally? Wouldn't you want to live like that? Wouldn't we all want to live like that? Of course we would! But why wait for a near-death-experience (which most of us will never have) to live like that? Why don't we live like that right now? How? By asking Jesus to untie us from whatever may be preventing us from living like that right now! How? By untying ourselves from whatever it is that might be preventing us from living like that right now! Could we pause for a minute so that each of us could ask ourselves from what might I need be untied, so I can be free to really live my life? (PAUSE) Dear Jesus, just as you raised the dead to life, raise me from whatever deadens my life. Dear Jesus, please untie me.