



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 – ADVENT 4 – 2017

We'll start by my making a suggestion to those of you who are parents and then we'll get right into our homily. Parents want what's best for their children. If you as a parent are influential in helping your children choose the path for their future, perhaps this could be a career that would be wonderful for them. Maybe you could suggest it to them. Do you know who has the longest vacation of any worker in the world? Santa Clause! There's your career. We'll get right into the homily. Sometimes in Christmas cards, in Christmas carols, in Christmas songs, in Christmas sermons the conclusion would be: These or other similar words. That's what Christmas is all about. Now, maybe the cards, carols, songs and sermons are all correct. Maybe what they say Christmas is all about IS what Christmas is all about. But, with only a Few Hours left, allow me to ask you, what do you think Christmas is all

about? Could we take a moment please so each of us could ask ourselves: What does Christmas mean to me? (PAUSE) the scriptures tell us: "God so loved the world that he sent his son to be our Savior." So it seems to me, Christmas is all about love. Since Christmas is all about Love, the only thing I need to do to celebrate Christmas to well is to love God – to rejoice in God's love for me and me, then, loving all others. If I enjoy the other festivities of Christmas, fine. If I don't enjoy the other festivities of Christmas, that's fine too as long as I enjoy the love that is Christmas. The scriptures tell us, "And you shall call him, 'Emmanuel', a name which means, 'God is with us.' " Because of Christmas, I know that God is with me from the moment I wake up in the morning to the moment I go to sleep at night. And he is with me throughout the night as well. Because of Christmas, I know God is with me from the moment of my birth to the moment of my death. And then God is with me through all eternity in the endless ecstasy of heaven. It seems to me, that's what Christmas is all about. No one is more in favor of keeping Christ in Christmas than I am. Having said that, allow me to make this suggestion: today and tomorrow, instead of wishing others a Merry Christmas could I dare to wish them a Merry Sunday? Merry Christmas implies that you could be merry just for one day. Because of Christmas we can be merry every day. So, Merry Sunday!