



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 – Feast of the Epiphany – 2018

We are going to get right into the great feast of the Epiphany, but before we do, I have to tell you this story. On Christmas someone asked me a question and usually, when someone asks me a question, I refer them to Fr. Jim! This is because Fr. Jim knows the answers to ALL questions. But I thought I could take a shot at answering THIS question. "What nationality is Santa Clause?" "Probably," I answered, "Santa Clause is – North Polish!" We're gonna get right into the great Feast of the Epiphany. Imagine this if you can, you are the only child of fabulously wealthy parents. You expect, rightly, that, after they die, the entire inheritance will be yours. Suddenly, without warning, you parents adopt a whole slew of children who are now co-heirs with you. That's the story of the Epiphany! The story of the Epiphany is that Jesus came, not just for the Jews, he came for everyone. The story of the Epiphany is

that Jesus didn't come just for the people of his time, he came for people of all times. He is the savior of the world. Everyone is always included – no one is ever excluded! Rich and poor, young and old, black and white, male and female, addicted and free, faithless and faithful, saint and sinner, divorced or married, single or celibate; everyone is always included. Jesus embraced simple shepherds and sophisticated Magi, smelly animals and angelic choirs; he embraced everyone and so should we! "Every nation, every race, every person wears your face, come anew o Child of our dreams." Now let's take a look at these words from our first reading: "Darkness covers the earth, thick clouds cover the peoples, but upon you the Lord shines, over you appears his glory!" There seems to be so much darkness surrounding us, doesn't it? How can you and I be a light that shines in the midst of the darkness? Here is a simple suggestion that I think can help you and I be a light in the darkness; a simple suggestion that ALL of us could do. My suggestion is that we simply always try to do what is right. Here's a true story about Sandy Koufax, a longtime resident of Vero Beach, a member of baseball's Hall of Fame, an exceptional pitcher, some say the best pitcher of all. Sandy Koufax is Jewish and in the fall of 1965 he made this announcement. He said that he was not going to pitch on the opening game of the 1965 World Series, Dodgers against the Twins, because that opening game fell on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar and Sandy Koufax said, "No, it wouldn't be right for me to play baseball on Yom Kippur." Well his team, the Los Angeles Dodgers were aghast. They desperately wanted him to play that opening game, they pleaded with him and they promised: "The minute the

game is over, we'll have a limousine waiting for you and you can go to all the synagogues you want!" But Sandy held firm, his faith was important to him and he didn't think it would be the right thing for him to do to play baseball on Yom Kippur. By the way, the Dodgers lost that opening game that Sandy didn't pitch. They went on to win the series, a series in which Sandy pitched two shut outs! Now, do I have the courage of a Sandy Koufax and I ask myself that. Do I have that kind of courage, to always do what I believe is the right thing to do no matter what the price? If I do have that courage, to always try to do the right thing, well then I think others might be motivated to do the same and will have started a ripple effect of doing the right thing. Years ago, the Christophers taught us: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." Why don't you and I be that candle, be that light by always doing what is right!