



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 – Corpus Christi 2018

The Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. You may be too young to remember, but this feast used to be called Corpus Christi and it was always celebrated on a Thursday. Regardless of what it is called; regardless of when it is celebrated, this is the feast when we celebrate receiving Holy Communion. Now, before we reflect on Holy Communion, allow me to address this to those of us who for whatever reason, come to church but do not receive Holy Communion. Let's say you have had an abortion, let's say that you are involved in a gay or lesbian relationship, let's say there are some rules and regulations of the church that you consistently violate, let's say that there are some practices of the church with which you thoroughly disagree, let's say that you haven't been to confession since George Washington was president! Whatever the reason that you think is

preventing you from receiving Holy Communion, please consider talking to a priest. When you talk things out, you can almost always work things out! Now, let's reflect upon receiving Holy Communion. Back in the day, looong before your time, we were taught that when we receive Holy Communion you receive the Body, the Blood, the Soul the Divinity of Christ. Let's reflect upon that for a while: first we'll reflect upon Soul and Divinity and then we'll reflect upon Body and Blood. Soul – the word soul connotes life. Don't we sing about our Immortal Soul? Our body dies, but our soul lives forever. And when we say someone has "soul" we mean that someone has zest, spice, spirit. If I'm looking at my life as a drudgery, if I'm looking at life as a series of problems and hassles. If I'm low on energy, if I have lost my enthusiasm, then I need to be open to the soul of Christ that I receive in Holy Communion. Divinity – divinity speaks of the power of Christ. And that power of Christ is renewed within me each time I receive him in Holy Communion. Jesus and I can get through ANYTHING together! When I'm filled with fears, anxieties, I need to be open to receive the divinity of Christ in Holy Communion. But, when I picture Jesus, I often see him with a gentle smile on his face. That's my most frequent image of Our Lord. But I also know that he suffered and that he suffered greatly. When I receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, that can renew the smile on my face and in my heart even in my toughest days. When I receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion, it can remind me that my life, just like his, involves suffering. Blood – when I was a little boy, I was taught a prayer, one sentence of which is this: "For one drop of his blood, which for sinners was

spilled is sufficient to cleanse the whole world of its guilt." And that same precious blood is mine for the taking each time I receive Holy Communion. Dear Jesus, this morning we have reflected upon receiving your Body and your Blood and your Soul and your Divinity each time we receive Holy Communion. For those of us who are not receiving you in Holy Communion, please give us the grace to rectify that, for those of us who are receiving you in Holy Communion, thank you, thank you, thank you!