



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 Holy Family – 2017

The Feast of the Holy Family – an opportunity for us to think about the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is also an opportunity for us to think about our own families and how, possibly, we can make them holier. All of us belong to a family – all of us; young or old, married or single, with children or no children, living alone or living with others.

Families come in all different sizes and shapes; just a few of the families we can hopefully make holier. Our nuclear family, our extended family, our family of Holy Cross Parish, our family or our neighbors and friends, the family of each other! We are all children of the one father – we're brothers and sisters; we're family. Let's take a look at some possible ways that we can make the families to which we belong – holier! First, we'll take a lesson from nature.

The birch tree is a beautiful but fragile tree. Alone it can't make it – storms, winds would destroy it. But in a forest or even a small clump of little birch trees, the birch tree survives and thrives. Birch trees need each other and so do we! The very first book of the Bible tells us "It is not good to be alone." It's fine to LIVE alone, it's not fine to BE alone. So, let's be there for each other. Let's support, help each other, let's encourage and complement each other, let's laugh and cry with each other. If we could be that way with each other, don't you think that each family to which we belong would be holier? Another suggestion: A recent Harris Poll concluded that the most irritating song of the season is "The Twelve Days of Christmas!" Well, how about if we take the idea of the number twelve and you and I say these twelve words frequently in all our relationships, these twelve words: "I was wrong, I am sorry, Please forgive me, I love you..." If we were to say and mean, those twelve words, don't you think all of the families to which we belong would be holier? And, if we were to live today what we hear today when St. Paul tells us: "Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another, forgive one another, love one another, allow peace to control your heart and be thankful." If you and I were to live like that, can't you imagine how much holier the families to which we belong would be? The feast of the Holy Family, an opportunity for us to think about the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and an opportunity for us to think about our own families and how we can make each of them holier.