



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 – Solemnity of Mary – 2019

Before we get started, I just have to tell you this story about my sister, Kathleen. Last week, she received a call telling her that her college classmates were having a reunion over the holidays and they asked could they maybe stay at her house over the holidays. My sister said, "Sure you can, sure, come and stay over the holidays. As a matter of fact, it will be fun to spend the holidays with my college classmates." She received a call today telling her that they were coming on New Year's and leaving on Christmas!! The Holy Day – Mary the Mother of God. The holiday, New Year's Eve! Let's take a look at both. The Holy Day: Every Marian feast gives us an opportunity to reflect upon our relationship with Mary. Perhaps I need to begin it, perhaps I need to revise it, and perhaps I need to renew it! Each time I see rosary beads in someone's hands, someone's home, at the side table in a hospital, nursing home or rehab center, I know that that person is in good hands – Mary's hands. Dear, Mary, you are not only the Mother of God, but also you are my mother as well. Please do for me what mom's do for their children: Watch over me, protect me, guide me, heal me, and help me. Thank you, Amen! The holiday: On New Year's eve the optimist stays up to welcome the New Year in. The pessimist stays up to make sure that the old year goes out! New Years are like new babies: both need lots of changes! Well let's allow mom and dad change the baby, but let's you and I decide what changes might I make to make 2019 a happy new year. A happy new year does not occur by changing a page on the calendar. A happy new year does not occur by wishing it so. A friend of mine has been a

psychiatrist for about thirty years. He tells me that literally everyone who comes to him wants to be happy. But, he tells me, a full eighty percent refuse to make any changes in their life – changes that would help them to be happy. Let's pause for a moment, so that each of us can ask ourselves; what changes would I need to make in order for 2019 be a happy new year for me. (PAUSE) Now here's a suggestion that I think will help each of us have a happy new year. In 2019, decide that you are going to trust God totally in everything: the guilt from the past, the fears for the future; to trust God totally in everything. Try to remember this little prayer in 2019, and I think you'll have a happy new year: I know nothing of tomorrow, except the Love of God will rise before the sun. Here's my prayer for each of you in 2019: "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace." Amen.