

Mary Mother of God, Jan 1, Year B

It's been said that the shepherds in the fields were not ordinary shepherds

The Temple needed lambs for sacrifice that were pure, and without blemish  
So – the Temple had their own flocks and their own shepherds – AND  
They pastured their flocks on the hills of Bethlehem

So – the shepherds who cared for the lambs to be used as a sacrifice in the Temple were ALSO the  
shepherds who first see the LAMB OF GOD WHO WILL TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD

**And Mary kept all these things and reflected on them in her heart**

It was also the custom in Israel that when a son was born, local musicians would come to the house and  
sing songs to greet him, and give God praise.

This didn't happen with Jesus – He was born in the stable, unnoticed.  
So ANGELS sing – taking the place of the local musicians THEY greet Him and give God praise

**And Mary kept all these things and reflected on them in her heart**

You know what else Mary experienced – diapers – and all that other day to day stuff of life

Wash His diapers	Clean up after Him
Lug the water	Milk the goat
Laundry	Cook Joseph's supper
Wash his clothes	Do the dishes

Mary was Mother of God – Holy (yes), *but holiness immersed in day to day life of Motherhood*

When Jesus was born it was a workday – a day like any other

Jesus was born during a tax census

People were busy -      Getting to their hometown  
Digging up birth records  
Filling out their tax forms, paperwork, dealing with town officials  
Long lines, traffic  
Crowds so thick, not a hotel room to be found

The angels announce the birth of Jesus to shepherds, at work, – on the night shift out in the fields

**If the Good News of Christmas is to be relevant it must go beyond the religion section of newspaper**

Birth of Jesus takes place in the middle of life & touches every part of life

In Church, In Parliament, In our jobs, In our families, at our Dinner tables

– Jesus touches all of it

AND BECAUSE HE TOUCHES ALL OF IT, HE TOUCHES OUR SIN, OUR FAILURES.

In Galatians Paul Says:

“In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of woman, to ransom those under the law” –  
He is talking about US

- Through Mary, Jesus came into the world and is part of our day to day lives today –
- Through Mary, Jesus is born at Christmas – but He is born for Easter – **& We are redeemed**

Because of that – the blessing of the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from Book of Numbers is ours as we enter 2012:

**May the Lord bless you and keep you**

**The Lord let His face shine upon you – and be gracious to you**

**The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!**