

Mary Mother of God, Jan 1, Year B

Once, on my wife's birthday our 3 sons came in and told her to stay in bed.
We heard the pots and pans and the sounds of cooking and she waited for them to call her
They called her into the kitchen and they were all sitting there with 3 plates of bacon and eggs
"Surprise, we made breakfast for ourselves"
Ah, the life of a mother.

My wife is a nurse
So she has to work holidays – this year she had to work Christmas.
So we adjust how we celebrate, when we do what – just like so many others who work holidays.

Think about it - That's exactly what was going on in Bethlehem – 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 1040, dealing with town officials
 Long lines, traffic
 Crowds so thick, not a hotel room to be found

When angels announce the birth of Jesus
Not to priests or prophets
To shepherds, at work, – working the night shift out in the fields

Jesus entered the world of flesh and blood
He didn't come in the sacristy, or the temple, or some holy place
He came in the rough and tumble, workaday world of people with jobs to do,
With fields to tend, stress, and all the anxiety of life.
With the government breathing down their necks at tax time.

Mary was Jesus' Mother – with all the day to day stuff that came with it
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

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, At the State House, In our jobs, In our families, at the Dinner table
– 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**