

“The Baby Is a Boy” – December 25, 2016
by Wayne J. Schneider – Soli Deo Gloria

“The Baby Is a Boy!”

St. Luke 2:7

Our first child was a boy, Matthew. I was not in the delivery room, so the doctor came out and said to me, *“It’s a boy!” I was so proud! You understand what I am saying, don’t you? I’m a slow learner, but I do learn: I WAS in the delivery room for the birth of Dennis and Julia.*

Can you picture Joseph’s happiness? So much tradition and custom have been added to contemporary Christmas celebrations that it’s true meaning is often displaced. While Joseph and Mary knew Jesus was extraordinary, this was still their baby boy!

When God gifts us with a child, we usually want to know three things:

Is the baby a girl or a boy?

Is mom OK?

Is the baby fine?

St. Luke gives us the answers. Some scholarship indicates that the gospel writer spoke personally with Mary, and he received Prima Facie information. *“[Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son” (2:7).*

In Jewish custom, first born sons were of great consequence. Mary and Joseph had a son!

“[Mary] Wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger” (v. 7). Mother Mary is fine enough to receive guests, the shepherds. St. Luke writes that when they left, *“Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart” (2:19).*

Someone in pain is not concerned with angelic celebrations, or stinky shepherds. Mary lovingly cared for her baby boy, as she sat musing about the Christ Child. The Aramaic word used here is for 'giving birth,' means 'live' birth.

To use the title of a "Doobie Brothers" song, "*Jesus Is Just Alright*," helps show that Jesus was a healthy child. Had Jesus been unwell Mary would not have placed him in a feed box, and Joe would have gone for assistance. St. Luke tells us it's a boy, Mary's fine, and Jesus is healthy. How do these answers affect us this morning?

There are lots of healthy mothers and baby boys. The church calls today "*The Nativity of our Lord*." This is the 'Incarnation,' the Word becomes human, one of us. This is the authentic connotation of Christmas.

Because Jesus was born into a human family, he is just like us. He understands us, he 'gets' us. He has experienced what you and I have gone through: the joys and the sorrows; the victories and the defeats. He was born to give us the best Christmas gift of all: the gift of a relationship with God that never ends.

This relationship is not just sometime in the future but in this present moment, this Christmas day. It's yours **if** you want it. Merry Christmas! Alleluia Amen.