

The Morning News

Local News for Northwest Arkansas

Print Page

'Christmas Baby' Born New Year's Day

By [Richard Dean Prudenti](#)
THE MORNING NEWS

BENTONVILLE -- The first baby born this year in Benton County was supposed to be a "Christmas Baby."

Violet Alexandra Santos, the daughter of Michael and Sarah Santos of Fayetteville, was scheduled to be born Dec. 25, but was delivered at 9:10 a.m. Tuesday and became a "New Year's Day" baby at St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers.

Either holiday will do, her father said.

"She's going to have plenty of presents in the future. I think she'll like that," Santos said.

The father hopes his daughter grows up to be a musician, like himself.

"I have plenty of musical instruments for her to play," said Santos, a graduate student in the music department at the University of Arkansas. He has played the clarinet and saxophone professionally for the U.S. Army.

The baby's mother named her "Violet" after the baby's great-great-grandmother on her side. The father picked "Alexandra," the feminine form of his favorite composer, Russian musician Alexander Scriabin, 1872-1915.

Washington County's first baby was born to Kimberly Rusher of Fayetteville. The baby girl was born at 10 a.m. at Willow Creek Women's Hospital. The girl weighed in at 7 pounds, 15 ounces. She is 20 inches long.

Santos called his baby a "no fuss, no hassle" baby, for "she's very healthy right now. She's quiet and sleepy," he said.

She was born 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

"I think she has my eyes and her feet," Michael Santos said, noting the baby has a lot of light brown hair.

Violet is their "first" baby.

"It was a rocky road but we made it through," Sarah Santos said. "I'm exhausted. I think I'll recover just fine. She's beautiful. She's very peaceful."

Next year, St. Mary's Hospital will move into a new facility off Interstate 540, at exit 83.

"This will be the last year that the first baby could be born at St. Mary's," a hospital news release states. "We look forward to next year, when we hope that the first baby of 2009 will be born in the new Mercy Medical Center."

The Morning News' [Steve Caraway](#) contributed to this report.