

Born in 1624, Johann Scheffler, was a Polish-German priest, and also a poet, physician, and mystic. He lived in Silesia which is now part of Poland. He wrote more than 200 hymns – many still used in churches today; and composed 1,676 poems – mostly as twelve syllable alexandrine couplets ... a style popular at that time.

One such short verse of his reads:

*Christ could be born  
a thousand times in Bethlehem.  
But all is in vain  
until He is born in me.*

And indeed, so too for us. The hymns, the carols ... the lights, the decorations ... the feasting and the cheer of the season ... all are in vain, unless we make room for Christ to be born in our hearts.

Today is the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord ... more commonly known as Christmas. And at this moment, we find ourselves at Mass celebrating the Birth of Christ ... literally “Christ” - “Mass.”

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us lay aside anything that keeps us separated from God and Christ. And as we continue in prayer ... let us pray for each other ... so that Jesus Christ may truly be born in each of our hearts ... today.

Merry Christmas.

May God bless you.

One little piece of liturgical logistics, in the worship booklets you will find the Creed. Normally, we bow at the words as indicated in the text. However, two times during the year we are asked – if physically able – to genuflect or kneel when we recite those words.

One of those times is on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

The other is 9 months later, today, December 25 ... Christmas.