

Celebrating Christmas

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 15**.

Christmas is the season of the liturgical year between Advent and Ordinary Time.

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At the time of Jesus' birth, a star appeared in the sky over Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

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The Christmas season begins on December 24 and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on the first Sunday after the Epiphany.

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During the Christmas season, we hear readings about the birth of Jesus, the Holy Family, and the Epiphany.

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The word *Christmas* comes from the Old English words *Cristes Maesse*, meaning "Mass of Christ."

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White is the Christmas season's liturgical color.

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The word *epiphany* means "revelation"—making something known.

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To honor the newborn king, the Magi brought gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold.

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The Magi were the first to proclaim Jesus as king.

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The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the announcement of Jesus' birth and the arrival of the Magi.

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