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

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

The word Christmas comes from the Old English words Cristes Maesse, meaning “Mass of Christ.” White is the Christmas season’s liturgical color.

The word epiphany means “revelation”—making something known. To honor the newborn king, the Magi brought gifts of frankincense, myrrh, and gold.

The Magi were the first to proclaim Jesus as king. The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the announcement of Jesus’ birth and the arrival of the Magi.