

# Celebrating Christmas

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

We celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas season, one of the most beautiful seasons in the liturgical year.

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The Christmas season begins with the celebration of Mass on Christmas Eve and lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

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On the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus' revelation to the whole world, which is represented by the Magi, or three Wise Men.

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During Christmas we hear about Bethlehem, the city of David, where Jesus was born. In Hebrew, *Bethlehem* means "house of bread."

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We call Jesus the Bread of Life because he came to bring bread to all who hunger.

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White, the color of the liturgical season of Christmas, reminds us of purity and joy.

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One symbol of Christmas is the Nativity scene, which shows Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

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The word *Christmas* means "Mass of Christ."

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Christmas reminds us how much God loves us and that is what we celebrate during this season.

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