

# A Christmas Latin Lesson

By Elisabeth Harvey (author of *Latina Ponti*)

With the following words and phrases you can make Christmas cards in Latin!

There are many fine ways to say Merry Christmas.

**Typical: Felix Navitatis Dies Christi (Happy birthday of Christ)**

I like to simplify and say:

**Laetus Natalis Christi (A joyful birthday of Christ)**

Put the phrase in the accusative to mean (Have a) Merry Christmas! (Agite) Laetum natalem Christi !

And a blessed new year: et Beatum Annum Novum!

### Nouns

stella, -ae – star

angelus, i – angel

vir, viri – man

cumulus, -i – a heap/pile

nix, nivis (fem) – snow

natalis, natalis (masc)– birthday

arbor, arboris (fem) – tree

multitudo, multitudinis (fem) – host (a great number)

### Verbs:

creo, creare – to create/make    crea- o, s, t,

adoro, adorare – to worship

angela = angel

### Adjectives:

niveus, a, um – snow/snowy

sempervivus, a, um – evergreen

angelicus, a, um – angelic

mirus, a, um - marvelous

aureus, a, um - golden

ruber, rubra, rubrum - red

flavus, a, um - yellow

albus, a, um - white

caeruleus, a, um - blue

viridis, is, e - green (a 3<sup>rd</sup> dec. adj!)

There is (or, It is) an evergreen tree. **Est arbor semperviva.**

The star is great! **Stella est magna!**

We are making a snowman. = **Creamus virum niveum.**

The stars are marvelous. = **Stellae sunt mirae!**

They see a marvelous angel. = **Angelum mirum vident.**

Christ is king. - **Christus est rex!**

## Christmas Verse

Matthew 2: 11a

Et intrantes domum invenerunt puerum

entering

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cum Maria, mater eius

et procidentibus adoraverunt eum. . .

falling down

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Verbs:

adorō, adorāre, adoravi, adoratum – to worship/adore

inveniō, invenīre, invenī, inventum – to discover/ find

Other words:

eum – him

puer, puerī – this means “boy” but it was also often used to mean “child.”