

DID YOU KNOW?

What Date is Easter?

Easter Sunday can occur as early as March 22 and as late as April 25. Unlike Christmas, which we celebrate on the same date every year (December 25 in the Western Church), the date for Easter varies because it is based on the cycles of the moon.

According to the Bible, Jesus Christ's death and resurrection occurred around the time of the Jewish Passover, which was celebrated on the first full moon following the vernal equinox. Early Christians celebrated Easter on different dates. At the end of the 2nd century, some churches celebrated Easter on the day of the Passover (an undesirable conflict with the Jewish festival), while others celebrated it on the following Sunday.

In 325CE, the Council of Nicaea—where we also received the Nicene Creed prayed at Mass—established that Easter will be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. And to standardize the calculation, the Church uses March 21 in the Gregorian Calendar as an “ecclesiastical approximation” for the vernal equinox.

