DOST PAGASA
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

PRESS RELEASE DECEMBER 2024

ASTRONOMICAL DIARY

PREPARED BY ASTRONOMICAL PUBLICATION AND PLANETARIUM UNIT, SPACE SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY SECTION

ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS, DECEMBER 2024

DATE	EVENT	TIME
05	Conjunction of the Moon and Venus	06:40 a.m.
05	Close approach of the Moon and Venus	07:44 a.m.
08	Close approach of Waxing Gibbous Moon and Saturn	04:41 p.m.
08	Conjunction of Waxing Gibbous Moon and Saturn	04:56 p.m.
12	Moon at Perigee (Distance = 365,427.966 km)	09:20 p.m.
14	Geminid meteor shower (ZHR = 120)	---
15	Close approach of Waxing Gibbous Moon and Jupiter	02:28 a.m.
15	Conjunction of Waxing Gibbous Moon and Jupiter	03:42 a.m.
18	Conjunction of the Moon and Mars	04:49 p.m.
18	Close approach of the Moon and Mars	05:17 p.m.
20	Mercury at dichotomy	10:51 p.m.
21	December solstice	05:21 p.m.
22	Ursid meteor shower (ZHR = 10)	---
24	Moon at Apogee (Distance = 404,414.302 km)	03:25 p.m.
24	Mercury at Highest Altitude in the Morning Sky	---
25	Mercury at Greatest Elongation West	10:30 a.m.

PHASES OF THE MOON

New Moon
Dec 01 02:21 p.m.

First Quarter
Dec 08 11:27 p.m.

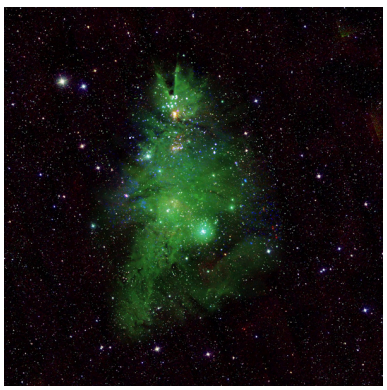
Full Moon
Dec 15 05:02 p.m.

Last Quarter
Dec 23 06:18 a.m.

New Moon
Dec 31 06:27 a.m.

RISE AND SET TIMES OF PLANETS

DATE	MERCURY		VENUS		MARS		JUPITER		SATURN	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Dec 01	06:57 am	06:07 pm	09:19 am	08:31 pm	09:23 pm	10:16 am*	05:51 pm	06:46 am*	12:21 pm	12:09 am*
Dec 11	05:23 am	04:43 pm	09:25 am	08:44 pm	08:44 pm	09:38 am*	05:06 pm	06:01 am*	11:43 am	11:28 pm
Dec 21	04:42 am	04:05 pm	09:28 am	08:54 pm	07:58 pm	08:55 am*	04:21 pm	05:16 am*	11:05 am	10:51 pm
Dec 31	04:48 am	04:06 pm	09:26 am	09:02 pm	07:07 pm	08:07 am*	03:37 pm	04:32 am*	10:28 am	10:14 pm



CHRISTMAS TREE CLUSTER

Astronomy Picture of the Month

This view of NGC 2264, also referred to as the "**Christmas Tree Cluster**," gets its name from the triangular shape, formed by a cluster of relatively young stars that, in visible light, resembles a tree. Comparatively small and massive stars are present in the cluster, with masses ranging from a tenth to seven times that of our Sun. The cluster is in the Milky Way galaxy and at about 2,500 light-years distant from Earth.

Notes:
[1] All times displayed are in Philippine Standard Time (PhST)
*[2] *following day*

"tracking the sky…helping the country"
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