

FINDING EASTER ON OUR LITURGICAL WALL CALENDAR

Easter Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, is marked with a sparkling gold panel on our Liturgical wall calendar.

Ever wonder why the date of Easter changes each year? Easter Sunday is determined by a formula using the sun cycles and moon phases. This formula was established in the year 325 at a gathering of church leaders at the Council of Nicaea.

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. For 2022 the spring equinox was Mar 20; the next full moon after that is April 16; the first Sunday after that is April 17, Easter Sunday!! Easter Sunday can be as early as March 22 to as late as April 25.

The date of Easter determines the dates for the liturgical seasons that come before and after Easter. The season of Lent is to be 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter Day. The day for the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, also determines the end of the Season of Epiphany. The date of Easter also determines the date of Pentecost, 50 days after Easter Day, and the length of the Season of Pentecost that follows Pentecost Day.

Easter Day is the beginning of 50 days of celebration that make up the season of Easter, sometimes called Eastertide. This season of the liturgical year is marked with warm white panels on our wall calendar and among the white and gold decorations added to the panels are butterflies. Butterflies have long been symbolic of new life and are a fitting symbol for a season that celebrates resurrection and new life. These particular butterflies were also part of the original calendar created in 1996.

The seasonal marker for Eastertide on the wall calendar is a white and gold butterfly.

We thank Jane Spalding for contributing this article.

