

Seasonal Notes

The Easter Vigil: When Will It Be Dark Enough?

The world of astronomy defines various degrees of darkness. (For example “civil” refers to the degree of darkness at which a court of law acknowledges reduced visibility.) By the consensus of a number of people, “nautical twilight” best matches the meaning of “nightfall” as used in the sacramentary for the earliest acceptable time to begin the celebration of the Easter Vigil. Adjustments have been made to accommodate daylight saving time.

Readers are advised to use the hour given for the centre nearest to their own situation. Readers in the far north are invited to suggest other more relevant centres if those listed below prove unhelpful.

Time of “Nautical Twilight” (Darkness) on the Night of Easter Vigil

City	April 3 2010	April 23 2011	April 7 2012	March 30 2013	April 19 2014	April 4 2015	March 26 2016	April 15 2017	March 31 2018	April 20 2019	April 11 2020
Calgary	9:25 pm	10:04 pm	9:33 pm	9:18 pm	9:56 pm	9:26 pm	9:11 pm	9:49 pm	9:19 pm	9:58 pm	9:41 pm
Edmonton	9:29 pm	10:13 pm	9:38 pm	9:21 pm	10:04 pm	9:30 pm	9:13 pm	9:56 pm	9:22 pm	10:06 pm	9:47 pm
Halifax	8:54 pm	9:23 pm	9:00 pm	8:49 pm	9:17 pm	8:55 pm	8:44 pm	9:11 pm	8:50 pm	9:18 pm	9:06 pm
Montreal	8:28 pm	8:58 pm	8:34 pm	8:22 pm	8:52 pm	8:29 pm	8:17 pm	8:46 pm	8:24 pm	8:53 pm	8:40 pm
Ottawa	8:36 pm	9:06 pm	8:43 pm	8:31 pm	9:00 pm	8:37 pm	8:25 pm	8:54 pm	9:09 pm	9:01 pm	8:49 pm
Saint John	8:58 pm	9:28 pm	9:05 pm	8:53 pm	9:22 pm	8:59 pm	8:48 pm	9:16 pm	8:54 pm	9:23 pm	9:11 pm
St. John's	8:39 pm	9:12 pm	8:46 pm	8:33 pm	9:05 pm	8:40 pm	8:27 pm	8:59 pm	8:34 pm	9:06 pm	8:52 pm
Toronto	8:47 pm	9:15 pm	8:54 pm	8:43 pm	9:09 pm	8:49 pm	8:38 pm	9:04 pm	8:44 pm	9:11 pm	8:59 pm
Vancouver	8:56 pm	9:32 pm	9:03 pm	8:49 pm	9:24 pm	8:57 pm	8:43 pm	9:17 pm	8:50 pm	9:26 pm	9:11 pm
Whitehorse	10:26 pm	11:37 pm	10:40 pm	10:14 pm	11:22 pm	10:28 pm	10:03 pm	11:07 pm	10:17 pm	11:25 pm	10:54 pm
Winnipeg	9:13 pm	9:49 pm	9:21 pm	9:06 pm	9:42 pm	9:14 pm	9:00 pm	9:35 pm	9:08 pm	9:44 pm	9:28 pm