

Winter 2025

Prairie Sky

New Moon



December 1st
December 30th
January 28th
February 27th
March 29th

First Quarter



December 8th
January 6th
February 5th
March 6th

Full Moon



December 15th
January 13th
February 12th
March 14th

Last Quarter



December 22nd
January 21st
February 20th
March 22nd

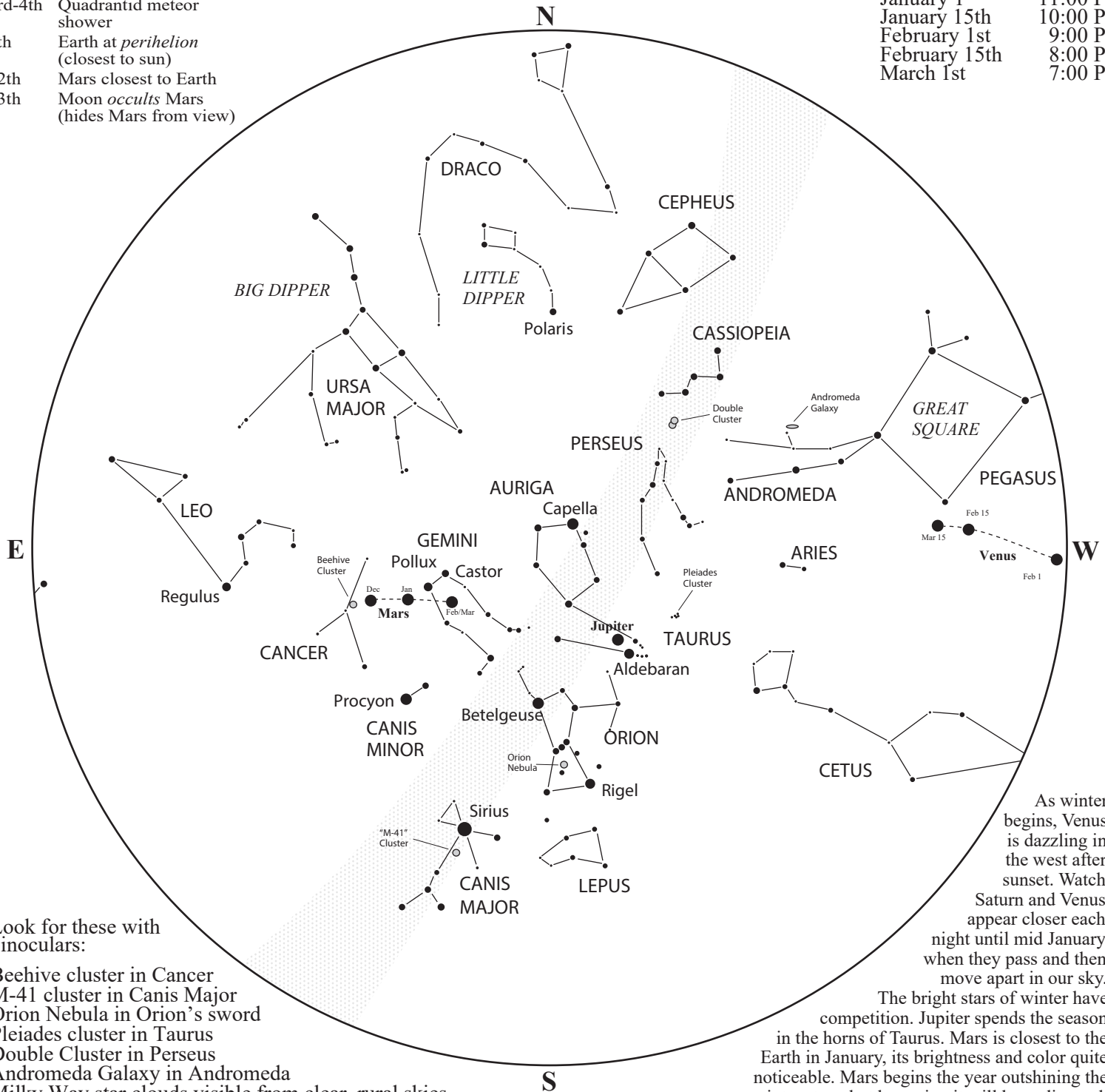
December 13th-14th Geminid meteor shower
December 21st Winter Solstice

March 9th Daylight Saving Time begins
March 13th-14th Total Lunar Eclipse
March 20th Spring Equinox

To use this chart, hold it face-down, above your head, so that the directions match your surroundings.

January 3rd-4th Quadrantid meteor shower
4th Earth at perihelion (closest to sun)
12th Mars closest to Earth
13th Moon occults Mars (hides Mars from view)

December 15th 12:00 AM
January 1 11:00 PM
January 15th 10:00 PM
February 1st 9:00 PM
February 15th 8:00 PM
March 1st 7:00 PM



Look for these with binoculars:

- Beehive cluster in Cancer
- M-41 cluster in Canis Major
- Orion Nebula in Orion's sword
- Pleiades cluster in Taurus
- Double Cluster in Perseus
- Andromeda Galaxy in Andromeda
- Milky Way star clouds visible from clear, rural skies

As winter begins, Venus is dazzling in the west after sunset. Watch Saturn and Venus appear closer each night until mid January when they pass and then move apart in our sky.

The bright stars of winter have competition. Jupiter spends the season in the horns of Taurus. Mars is closest to the Earth in January, its brightness and color quite noticeable. Mars begins the year outshining the winter stars, but by spring it will have dimmed.

For Planetarium schedules and more information about the night sky, call the "showline" at 217/351-2446, or check out our website at www.parkland.edu/planetarium

