

# THE RECKONING OF ORTHODOX PASCHA

(EASTER)

## *General Rule*

Pascha, upon which all the following Sundays (until next year's Great Lent) depend (Paschalion), is reckoned as such:

- ↪ Spring Equinox (21<sup>st</sup> of March)
- ↪ Full Moon after the equinox
- ↪ First Sunday after the full moon

If the full moon happens on the 21<sup>st</sup>, then Pascha falls on the following Sunday.

## *Western and Eastern Discrepancy*

This is the same rule as also used in the Western Church, but Pascha does not always coincide in the Church of the East with Western Easter. The Eastern Church in general still observes the rule laid down by the **Council of Nicea** (325 A.D.) that Pascha shall **never either precede or coincide** with the Jewish Passover, but **must always follow it** (as a symbol of the New Testament following the Old Testament). This rule of the Council of Nicea is now disregarded by the western, non-orthodox churches.

In such case, a new full moon must occur before the Pascha Feast. Hence, there is often a discrepancy of up to six weeks.

## *Other Restrictions*

Pascha cannot fall earlier than March 23 or later than April 25.

The full moon used for the purposes of the Pascha reckoning is the Fourteenth Day of a Lunar Month, reckoned according to the ancient Ecclesiastical computation, and not the real astronomical full moon.