

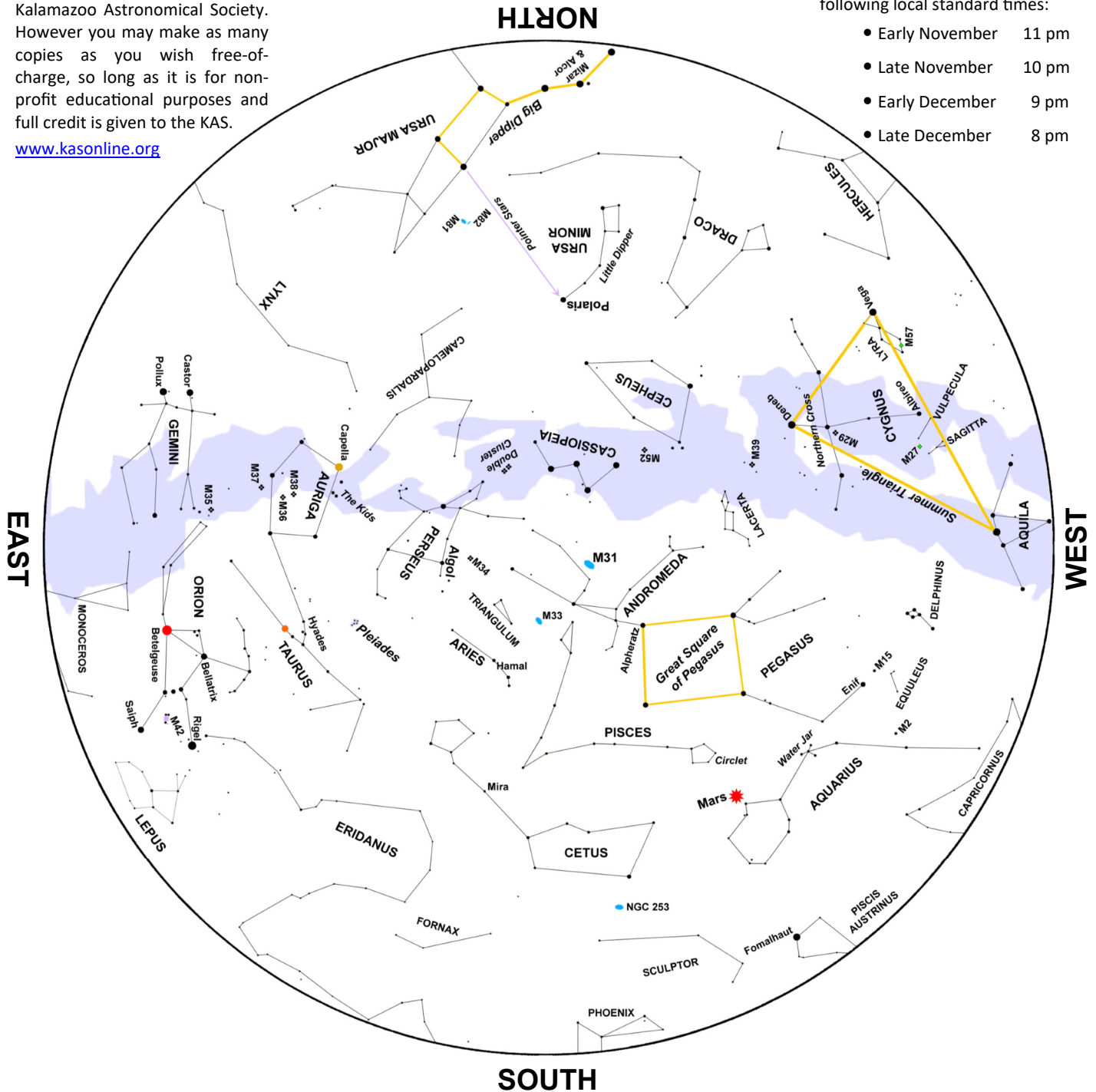
# — December Night Sky —

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This map represents the sky at the following local standard times:

- Early November 11 pm
- Late November 10 pm
- Early December 9 pm
- Late December 8 pm



December begins with a waning crescent Moon approaching the pair of Venus and Spica in the early morning sky. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the three celestial bodies form a shallow triangle in the southeastern sky. The highlight of the encounter is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when the triangle tightens, with the Moon above brilliant Venus and upper left of Spica. The Moon

and Spica are on opposite sides of the Morning Star on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Geminid meteor shower is predicted to peak during the early morning hours of December 14<sup>th</sup>. Experts anticipate a zenithal hourly rate of around 120 meteors per hour. A waxing crescent Moon (two days before first quarter) will

cause some interference for those only able to observe on the evening of December 13<sup>th</sup>, but the Moon will have set before the peak hours on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

The solar system's largest and smallest planet, Jupiter and Mercury, will be less than 1° apart low in the southeast shortly before dawn on December 21<sup>st</sup>.