

## MEANING

- Comes from the name Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, fertility and new beginnings.
- Signals the welcoming and celebrating of spring and marks the beginning of the agricultural cycle.
- Marks the vernal equinox in some modern neopagan traditions.
- A time of new beginnings and of life emerging from the grips of winter.

## WHEN

- Celebrated around March 20th when the day has roughly an equal amount of sun and darkness.
- Please note: Precise celebration dates can vary based on tradition and the related agricultural milestones of the local region. Celebrations may occur on the astrologically precise quarter and cross-quarter days, the nearest full or new moon or the nearest weekend.

## COMMON PRACTICES

- Outdoor meditation, planting of seeds, and simple rituals to welcome the spring are common.
- Eggs, typically painted, symbolize new life. Many families also incorporate seasonal candy, such as peeps and chocolate rabbits.
- Some modern neopagans celebrate the festival by choosing a man and a woman to play the roles of the god and goddess.

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Email: [inclusion@msu.edu](mailto:inclusion@msu.edu)

## Type of Calendar:

Wheel of the Year  
(solar)



# Ostara

Germanic

Ow·staa·ruh



- When appropriate, reasonable accommodations should be discussed in advance between students and instructors.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

[provost.msu.edu](http://provost.msu.edu)