



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/T. Megeath (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA).

# February 2008



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	●	6	7	8
10	11	12	◐	13	14	15
				VALENTINE'S DAY		
17	18	19	○	20	21	22
		WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY				
24	25	26	27	◑	28	29

## Reflection Nebula NGC 7129

Looking like a Valentine's Day rose in this image from the Spitzer Space Telescope's infrared array camera, reflection nebula NGC 7129 is home to some 130 young stars. Reflection nebulas are clouds of gas and dust that shine by reflecting the light from nearby stars. The brightest reflection nebulas are places where new stars are being formed.

Images of NGC 7129 taken by visible telescopes (right) show only a smattering of hazy stars against a luminescent cloud. Spitzer, however, by sensing the infrared radiation or heat of the cluster, reveals much more detail. In this four-color composite, emission at an infrared wavelength of 3.6 microns is shown in blue, 4.5 microns in green, 5.8 microns in orange, and 8.0 microns in red. Dust grains heated by the intense light from the embedded young stars appear rosy red. Three very young stars near the center of the image are sending supersonic jets of gas into the cloud, heating up molecules of carbon monoxide. Emissions from these CO molecules appear in green as the "stem" of the rose.



Credit: California Institute of Technology Digitized Sky Survey.

