



Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/T. Megeath (University of Toledo).

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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2	3	4	☾	5	6	7
8	9	10	☉	11	12	13
14	15	VETERANS DAY	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	☽	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	THANKSGIVING	

Orion Nebula

This infrared Spitzer image probes deep into the clouds of dust known as the Orion Nebula and the surrounding regions. The striking false-color picture shows pinkish swirls of dust speckled with stars, some of which are orbited by disks of planet-forming dust.

Spitzer, with its powerful infrared vision, revealed nearly 2,300 such planet-forming disks in the Orion cloud complex. At 1,450 light-years away, the disks—made of gas and dust that whirl around young stars—are too small and distant to be seen in visible-light images (right). However, the infrared glow of their warm dust is easily spotted by Spitzer's infrared detectors. Each disk has the potential to form planets and its own solar system. Spitzer's infrared vision also uncovered 200 stellar embryos in the Orion cloud complex, most of which had never been seen before. Stellar embryos are still too young to have developed disks.

The infrared image was captured by Spitzer's infrared array camera. Dust that has been heated by starlight is shown in red and orange. Hot gas and dust appear green, and stars are shown in blue.



Credit: California Institute of Technology Digitized Sky Survey.

