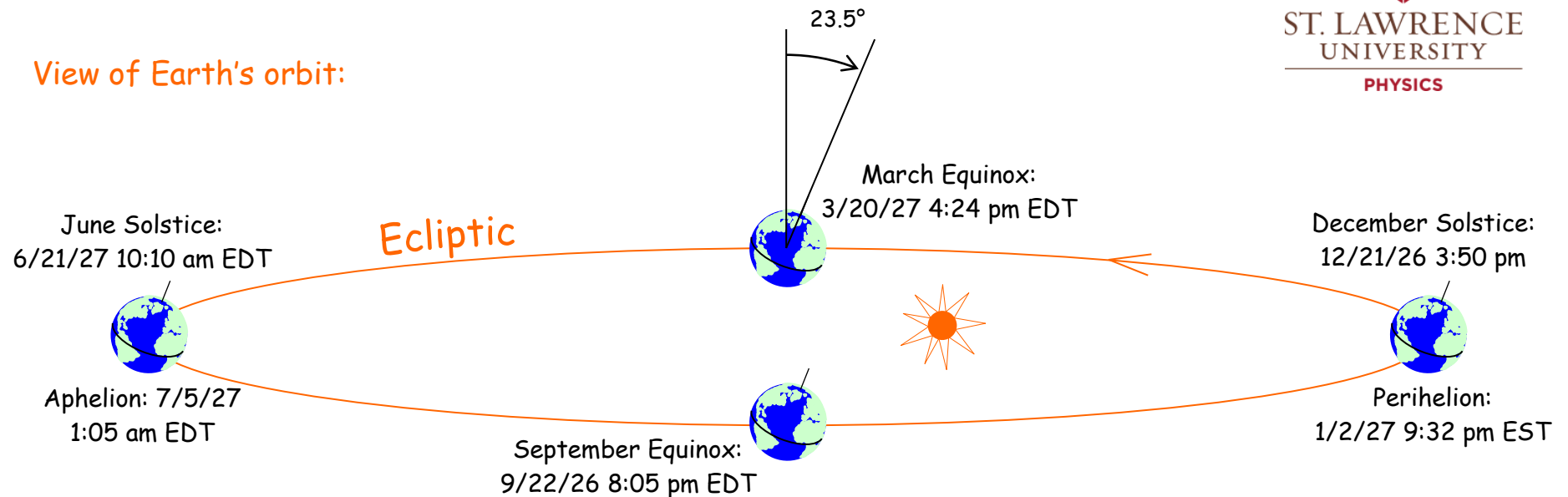
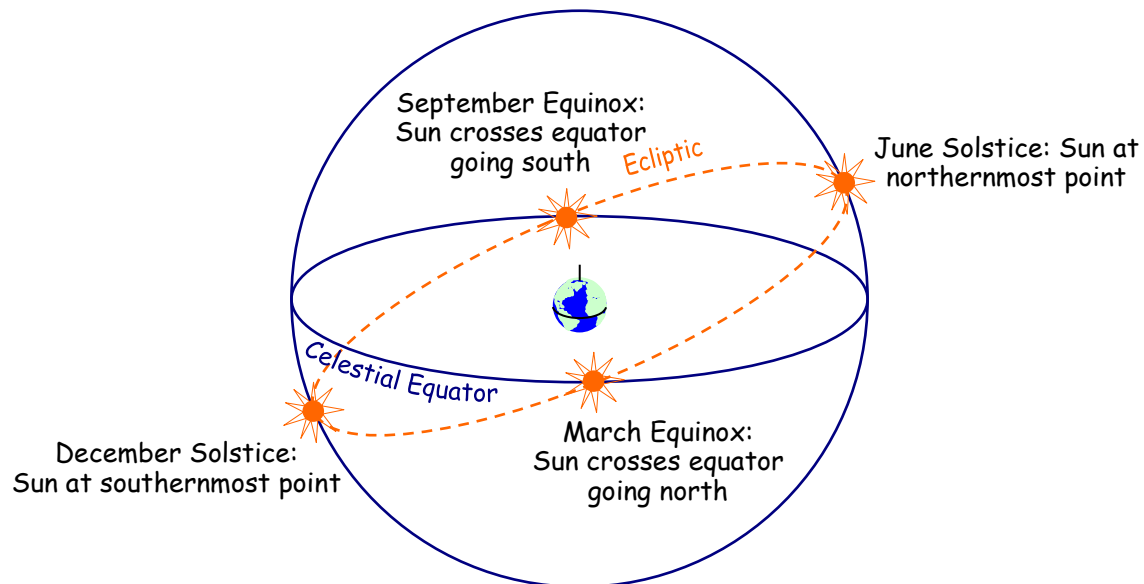


Equinoxes, Solstices, Perihelion, & Aphelion: 2026 - 2027

View of Earth's orbit:



View of Earth-centered celestial sphere



As Earth orbits the Sun we see it "move" across the stars. It moves 360° in 365 days, so it moves about 1° per day **TO THE EAST** against the background of the stars. The **ECLIPTIC** represents the path of the Sun across the sky through the year and it also represents the plane of the orbit of Earth and the other planets (within a few degrees.) The angle between the Earth's axis and the axis of the orbit is 23.5° . The Sun is not at the center of the orbit, but at one focus of the ellipse, so Earth's distance from the Sun varies through the year. Earth is closest to the Sun near the December solstice (on about January 4) moving fastest in its orbit and farthest from the Sun near the June solstice (about July 4) moving slowest. This is why February is shorter than August