

## **Our Night Sky for December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

**Tonight offers a good opportunity to spot Venus. If you have a good view of the western horizon and look southwest even as early as 4:30 you should be able to spot brilliant Venus.**

**Venus just like our moon cycles through phases. Right now, Venus is close to what we would call a new moon phase, it is close to its maximum separation or western elongation. In about six months it will be at its greatest eastern elongation. East and west referring to another planet has nothing to do with our east and west. Standard practise when describing another planet or directions relating to a planet are up is north left is east right is west and down is south.**

**From this week's new moon Venus half illuminated we would refer to it as waxing or moving toward fully illuminated. Another difference with Venus is that we will not see it fully illuminated it will always be behind the sun when it is at its full phase. It continues from there and by June 4<sup>th</sup> reaches its greatest eastern elongation. Since the planets do not follow circular orbits but lop- sided ellipse the eastern elongation is a bit larger and you will have a chance to catch sight of Venus a bit higher and longer than this week. At about 4:30 the sun should be below the horizon at what's called civil twilight in other words, the street lights will be on.**

**This is the highest above the horizon so if you don't catch it you will get another chance in June to enjoy Our Night Sky**