



## June 2018 Sky Events

# Asteroid Vesta Reaches Opposition

- ★ The brightest **asteroid Vesta** reaches *opposition* (positioned opposite the Earth from the Sun) on **June 19<sup>th</sup>**.
- ★ The *6<sup>th</sup> magnitude object* is found in the constellation Sagittarius at the beginning of June and transitions into Ophiuchus late this month.
- ★ With a diameter of 525 km (326 mi) Vesta is the *2<sup>nd</sup> most massive object* in the asteroid belt, surpassed only by dwarf planet Ceres.
- ★ At *opposition*, Vesta will be visible the entire night, shining at magnitude 5.3 – **its brightest apparition until 2031** – and a naked eye find in dark conditions.

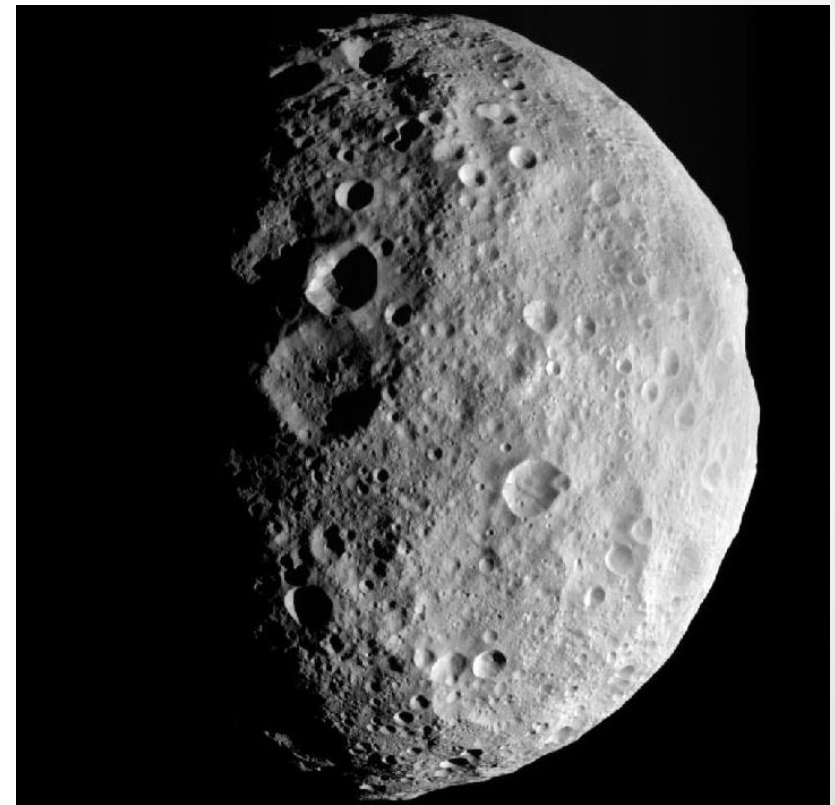


Image of Vesta taken by the Dawn spacecraft in 2012



## June 2018 Sky Events

# Asteroid Vesta Reaches Opposition

The paths of Vesta and nearby Saturn this month, both located rising in southeast skies at nightfall slightly above the “teapot” asterism in Sagittarius

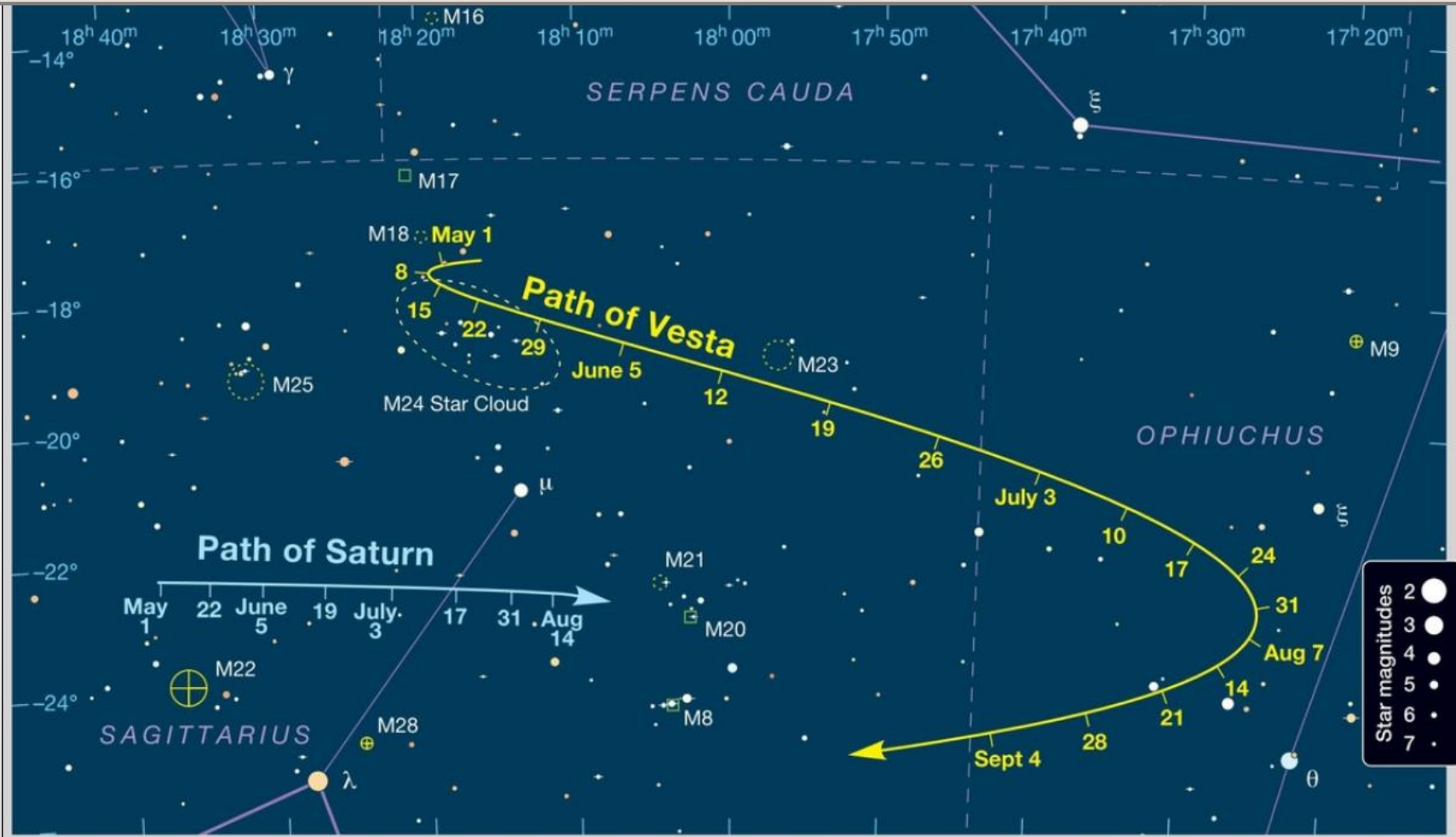


Chart courtesy of Sky & Telescope