

Determining Danish Dates

Many Danish dates are entered in parish records as "feast days". A feast day is simply a religious holiday, and religious holidays always occurred on a Sunday.

A "**fixed**" feast day always occurs on the same date of the year, such as Christmas, which always occurs on December 25th. A "**movable**" feast day is one in which the date changes yearly, such as Easter.

The following charts and calendars help determine the dates which are entered as feast days.

To use these charts:

1. Find your feast day on the Fixed or Movable feast day lists. Some feast days will be written in Danish, some in Latin.
2. If the feast day is Fixed, the date you seek is shown in the first column, and you're done.
3. If the feast day is movable, look at Table D. Find the *year* of your feast day and you will see a number. That number corresponds to a line number on table E.
4. On Table E, look across the top row to find the name of the feast day (Latin version) , then go down that column to the line number which you determined . The intersection of this column and row shows the date you are seeking, and you're done.
5. However, if your feast day contains a number of days or weeks past a feast day, such as Feria 4 p. Nativitas or Dominica 6 p. Trinitatus:

Remember:

Feria means "day" (the above example would be 4 days past Navitas)

Dominica means "Sunday" (or "week", since feast days are always on a Sunday)(The above example would be 6 weeks past Trinitatus)

6. On the Calendar of Weeks, look up the date you found . To add days, count across, as you would on a regular calendar. To add weeks, count down as you would on a regular calendar, to find the correct date.

One Exception: On Table D, if the year you are looking for has an asterisk(*), it means that year is a leap year. After you have determined the date, if it falls in the months of January or February, you need to add one day to your determined date.

