



KOPERNIK OBSERVATORY & SCIENCE CENTER

698 UNDERWOOD ROAD, VESTAL NY 13850

PHONE (607)748-3685 FAX (607) 748-3222 WWW.KOPERNIK.ORG



Winter Star Party

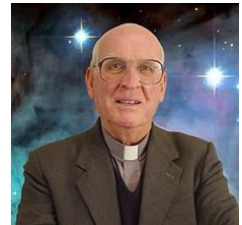
Saturday, February 18, 2017



6:00 PM **Doors Open:** Kick off the Winter Star Party with early telescope viewing (weather permitting) and family-friendly science and engineering activities. Activities will include building with LEGO® WeDo Robotics and Snap Circuits®, making a Star Chart, and experimenting with our Black Hole simulator!

6:30 PM **Lights & Lasers for Kids:** Discover that white light is made of all the colors of the rainbow! Observe fascinating displays of various light sources – including different elemental spectra, colorful LEDs, and lasers. Listen to invisible light using Kopernik's infrared light detector!

7:00 PM **Presentation: The Copernican Revolution** – George V. Coyne, SJ, PhD, Le Moyne College
Kopernik is excited to welcome back Father George Coyne, a Jesuit priest and world-renowned astronomer. For nearly 30 years, he was the director of the Vatican Observatory and head of their research group based at the University of Tucson in Arizona. He has been in Syracuse on the faculty at Le Moyne College since retiring from the observatory in 2012. He visited Kopernik that fall for the 30th Annual AstroFest.



At this year's Winter Star Party, Fr. Coyne will talk about The Copernican Revolution. When Polish astronomer and mathematician Mikołaj Kopernik (1473-1543), known in English as Nicholas Copernicus, published his famous work in 1543 about the earth revolving around the sun, a cultural revolution began. We can understand this best by examining what people believed at that time, such as the teachings of Aristotle and Ptolemy, and what was happening at that time, including Martin Luther's break with Rome and the Council of Trent. Kopernik's discoveries challenged many of these ideas. He also was laying the groundwork for the birth of modern science, by clarifying the notion of hypothesis in scientific research. Later, Galileo would continue to develop the scientific method and, like Kopernik, would run up against the Church with his views. Fr. Coyne will discuss Kopernik's work and confrontations, and what they have to say about the role of science in society today.



8:30 PM **Kopernik's Birthday Celebration** Mikołaj Kopernik was born February 19, 1473. Enjoy a slice of birthday cake as we celebrate the 544th anniversary of his birth!

9:00 PM **Evening Program: Winter Deep-Sky Gems & Jewels** – Roy Williams, Kopernik Staff
Enjoy a tour through the winter night sky. Learn about star clusters, nebulae and galaxies that are visible during the winter months. Get a preview of March's Messier Marathon and learn the strategies for observing all 110 Messier Objects in one night!

Programs will be held in our heated main building.

Dress warm for telescope and outdoor viewing. If clear, view Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Orion Nebula, and other celestial objects through KOSC's professional telescopes and get a laser-guided tour of the winter constellations.

Admission

\$5 adults, \$3 students/seniors, \$16 family maximum

KOSC Members are Free



For information call (607) 748-3685 ext. 315 or visit www.kopernik.org