

פּוּרִים פּוּרִים

Ta'anis Esther

13 Adar/March 16/

Wednesday

Ta'anis Esther commemorates the three days that Esther and the people of Shushan fasted in Nissan. [Esther, 3:12, 4:16]

It also commemorates the day the Jews fasted and prayed to Hashem when they defended themselves on the thirteenth of Adar. [Esther, 9:1-2]

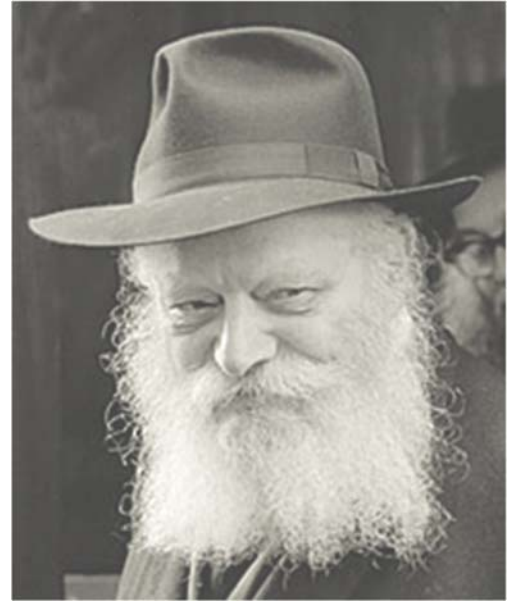
All men and women should fast. Except for pregnant or nursing women, or people feeling ill. Consult a Rav if necessary.

Shachris:

The Shliach Tzibur says Aneinu in the Repetition of the Sh'moneh Esrei. We say Selichos and the long Avinu Malkeinu, and read from the Torah.

Machatzis HaShekel:

Before Mincha we give Machatzis HaShekel (half shekel) to commemorate the silver half Shekel that the Jews gave in the Beis Hamikdash. They gave it in Adar so that by Nissan the Communal Sacrifices (Korbonos Tzibur) could be purchased for the year.



It's customary to give **three** half dollars, since Parshas Shekalim mentions the Machatzis HaShekel three times.

The obligation begins at age twenty (according to some opinions thirteen). Some give on behalf of their wife and children. Once you begin to give for a child you must give every year.

If you didn't give it on Ta'anis Esther, you may still do so before Megilah-Reading on Purim Day.

Minchah:

We read from the Torah and Haftorah for a fast day. We say Aneinu in Shemoneh Esrei at Shema Koleinu. We don't say Tachnun nor Avinu Malkeinu.

PURIM

ADAR 14 / MARCH 16-17

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - THURSDAY

All men and women are obligated in the five major Mitzvos:

1. Listen To The Reading Of The Megilah

Men and women are obligated to hear the Megilah twice, once at night and once by day.

It's preferable to hear the Megilah in Shul.

It's customary to bring even small children to Shul to hear the Megilah-Reading (if they won't disturb).

The Ba'al Koreh should be well versed in the laws of Megilah.

Before reading the Megilah, the Ba'al Koreh (and listeners with Kosher Megilahs) folds the Megilah into thirds.

The Ba'al Koreh says three Brochos for us.

We stand for the Brochos.

Don't answer "Baruch Hu U'Varuch Shemo." **Do** say Amen after each Brochoh.

The Ba'al Koreh says the Brochos with the intention that he's saying the Brochos and reading the Megilah for all listeners. **We** have in mind, when hearing the Brochoh and the reading of the Megilah, that we're fulfilling the Mitzvah through him.

To fulfill the Mitzvah, you must hear **every** word of the Megilah. You can't speak from the first Brochoh

before the Megilah-Reading until after the Brochoh afterward. If you have a Kosher Megilah you may read with the Ba'al Koreh, (quietly so that others can hear the Ba'al Koreh). If you are following a printed text don't read aloud.

The congregation says the four Pesukim of Geulah and those of Haman's ten sons; the Ba'al Koreh reads them only after the congregation finishes.

The Chabad custom is to make noise at Haman's name only when he's mentioned with a title. The Ba'al Koreh should wait for silence before continuing.

When the Ba'al Koreh reads the words "Igeres HaZos" [9:26] and "Igeres HaPurim HaZos HaSheinis" [9:29], he (and those with Kosher Megilahs) shake the Megilah.

After the Megilah, we say the Brochoh "HaRav Es Riveinu" if there's a Minyan. We say "Shoshanas Yaa-kov" and roll up the Megilah.

If you read for others after you have already fulfilled the Mitzvah:

It's better that one of the listeners make the Brochos. If you're reading for women only, **they** should say the Brochoh "Lishmo'ah Megilah" instead of "Al Mikrah Megilah." Say the Brochoh after the Megilah only if there's a Minyan.

2. SAY AL HANISSIM

We add Al HaNissim in Shemoneh Esrei and Birkas HaMazon to thank Hashem for the miracle of Purim.

In Shemoneh Esrei:

Say Al HaNissim in the Brochoh of Modim.

If you didn't say Al HaNissim and remember it before saying Hashem's name in the Brochah "HaTov Shimchah U'Lechah Na'eh L'Hodos," say Al HaNissim and continue from "Ve'al Kulam..."

If you already said Hashem's name, finish the Brochah and don't say Al HaNissim.

In Birchah HaMazon:

Say Al HaNissim in the second Brochah of Birchah HaMazon, after Nodeh.

If you didn't say Al HaNissim and haven't said Hashem's name at the end of the Brochah, you can say Al HaNissim at that point.

If you've gone further, continue to "Harachamon Hu Yezakeinu L'Yemos HaMoshiach," and add: "Harachamon Hu Ya'aseh L'Yemos Kemo Sheosoh La'avoseinu Bayomin Haheim Biz'man HaZeh," and continue from "Bimei Mordechai."

3. Send Mishloach Manos

On Purim Day, send a gift of at least two kinds of food that can be eaten without preparation (cakes, fruits, drinks, cooked fish or meat, etc) to at least one friend. This demonstrates friendship and brotherhood among the Jewish people.

A man sends to a man, and a woman sends to a woman, boys send to boys and girls send to girls. Children should be encouraged to send Mishloach Manos.

A mourner must send Mishloach Manos, but we don't send to him. You may send to other members of his family.

4. GIVE MATONOS LOEVYONIM

On Purim Day, give charity of at least a nominal sum to two poor people. If you can't find a poor person, set the money aside until you find one, or put it in a Pushka (charity box).

You can give to any poor person, man or woman or a child (who understands), or a mourner. There is **no** requirement for a man to give only

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to a man, or a woman to a woman, etc. Giving to the poor, further demonstrates the spirit of unity among the Jewish people.

A woman should not rely on her husband to fulfill the Mitzvah for her. She should personally give Matanos LoEvyonim, and send Mishloach Manos to her friends.

Children should be encouraged to fulfill this Mitzvah.

On Purim, whoever stretches out his hand and asks, should be given Tzedakah.

It's better to increase in Matanos LoEvyonim than Mishloach Manos and Seudas Purim. Machatzis HaShekel and (the minimum amount of) Matanos LoEvyonim may not be from Ma'aser money.

5. EAT THE FESTIVE PURIM MEAL

During the day of Purim we eat a special meal to rejoice in the Purim spirit.

PURIM NIGHT - WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Add Al HaNissim in Shemoneh Esrei in Maariv.

After Shemoneh Esrei, we say Kaddish with Tiskabel, and read the Megilah.

After Megilah-reading, we say Shoshanas Ya'akov, V'Atah Kadosh, Kadish and Aleinu.

One may read the Megilah all night until dawn.

We eat a small Seudah on the night of Purim. It's correct to set the table with a tablecloth and candles to emphasize its festive nature.

Purim Day - THURSDAY

It's proper to wear Shabbos clothes on Purim.

The Mitzvos of Purim Day may be done from sunrise to sunset.

We add Al HaNissim in Shemoneh Esrei. We don't say Tachnun. After Shemoneh Esrei we read from the Torah (Vayavo Amalek). If you didn't hear Parshas Zachor, have in mind the Mitzvah of remembering Amalek.

After the Torah reading, we read the Megilah.

If you still need to give Machatzis HaShekel, do so before the Megilah-Reading.

We wear Rashi Tefilin during the reading.

When the Ba'al Koreh says the Brochah of Shehechyanu before the Megilah, have in mind the other Mitzvos of Purim: Mishloach Manos, Matanos LoEvyonim and Seudas Purim as well.

Purim is an excellent opportunity to do Mivtzaim. You can provide people in old age homes, neighbors, and business associates with Mishloach Manos and Matanos LoEvyonim for them to give out.

Children should fulfill the Mitzvos of listening to the Megilah, Mishloach Manos, (boy to boy etc), Matanos LoEvyonim, Seudas Purim, as well as Mivtzaim.

To give Matanos LoEvyonim on Purim itself, you can deliver it, in the morning, to Rabbi Yonah Landau, 455 N. Detroit Street, or Rabbi Schochet, at the Yeshivah.

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The Four Parshios

Parshas Shekalim
Vayakhel
25 Adar I / February 26

We read Parshas Shekalim on the Shabbos before Rosh Chodesh Adar (or on Shabbos Rosh Chodesh Adar). It talks about the Mitzvah of giving Machatzis Hashekel, the silver half-Shekel every man had to give to the Beis Hamikdash annually in Adar. The money was used to buy the communal sacrifices for the year.

Parshas Parah
Shemini
23 Adar II / March 26

We read Parshas Parah on the Shabbos before we read Parshas HaChodesh. It teaches the laws of the Parah Adumah - Red Heifer, and how it purified. Since all Jews had to purify themselves before bringing the Korban Pesach, it is read now. According to some Halachic authorities, it is a Torah obligation.

Parshas Zachor
Vayikra
9 Adar II/ March 12

We read Parshas Zachor on the Shabbos before Purim. It teaches the Mitzvah to remember what Amalek did to us, and to erase their memory. We read it on the Shabbos before Purim, since Haman was a descendant of Amalek. It's a Torah obligation. According to many Halachic authorities women are obligated as well as men.

Parshas HaChodesh
Tazria
1 Nissan / April 2

We read Parshas HaChodesh on the Shabbos before Rosh Chodesh Nissan, or in some years, like this year, on Shabbos Rosh Chodesh Nissan. It talks about the first commandment that HaShem gave us; how to sanctify the months, and establishing the calendar starting from Nissan, as well as the laws of Pesach.



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Purim and Yerushalayim

“...In clear, practical words: to strengthen and broaden the Purim preparations, in such a way that every Jew, will observe Purim, to the fullest degree. And of course, to make it possible for every Jew, under special conditions, (in the army, old age homes, orphanages, hospitals, or prisons) to observe Purim.

There’s another idea connected with this Purim: When Purim is on Friday, in Yerushalayim, the holiday extends to the next Sunday, as far as several aspects: seudas Purim, simchas Purim, mishloach manos, etc.

Immediately, at the beginning of exile, all Jews accepted upon themselves not to forget Yerushalayim, to remember it, to raise it above every joy. Therefore it’s appropriate and fitting for Jews - in all places - to add many aspects of celebration on Sunday: In Divrei Torah, which make the heart happy (Tehillim: 19), to make Jews happy - with Ahavas Yisroel, and if appropriate or necessary, by sending mishloach manos, and matanos loevyonim.

And especially, by gathering to strengthen Yiddishkeit, in a context of “Yerushalayim,” Yirah Sh’leima - the completeness of fear of Hashem. And especially gatherings of Jewish children, all of which, even little babies, are members of the Army of Hashem. (Particularly, since Haman wanted to destroy “all the Jews, from young to old, babies and women, on one day.” Esther told Mordechai, “Go, gather all the Jews” refuting Haman’s accusation that the Jews were “scattered and separated.”)

And through all this to unite with Yerushalayim, which we face every day, in every prayer, as it says: “And they will pray towards the direction of the city You chose,” [Melachim 1: 8:42] which He chose, and gave to every Jew, forever, as an eternal inheritance.”

[From a letter of the Rebbe, Adar II, 5741]

Adar II 5782 Calendar - Shnas Shemittah

Rosh Chodesh Adar 2
Thursday/March 3/30 Adar 1

Rosh Chodesh Adar 2 Day 2
Friday/March 4/1 Adar 2

Pikudei
Shabbos Chazak
2 Adar II/March 5
Light Candles Friday March 4: **5:34**
Shabbos Ends: **6:37**
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:09**

Vayikrah
Parshas Zachor
9 Adar II/March 12
Light Candles Friday March 11: **5:40**
Shabbos Ends: **6:43**
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:03**

Krias HaTorah Minyan times will be sent
in the Shul email

Ta'anit Esther
Wednesday/13 Adar II/March 16
Fast Begins: **5:44**
Machatzis HaShekel / Minchah
Fast Ends: **7:28**

Purim Night
Wednesday Night/14 Adar II/March 16
Maariv & Megillah-Reading times will be
sent in the Shul email

Purim
Thursday/14 Adar II/March 17
Sunrise: **7:01**
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:59**
Minyan, Krias HaTorah and
Megilah-Reading times will be sent in
the Shul email

Shushan Purim
Friday/15 Adar II/March 18
No Tachnun

Tzav
Adar 16/March 19
Light Candles Friday March 18: **6:46**
Shabbos Ends: **7:49**
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:57**

Shemini
Shabbos Mevarchim Nissan
Parshas Parah
23 Adar II/March 26
Light Candles Friday March 25: **6:51**
Tehillim: **8:15**
Shachris: **10:00**
Shabbos Ends: **7:54**
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:52**

Tazriah
Rosh Chodesh Nissan
Parshas HaChodesh
Nissan 1/April 2
Light Candles Friday April 1: **6:56**
Shabbos Ends: **7:59**
Last Time to Read Shema: **9:46**

Molad of Nissan
Friday, April 1
4:36 PM