

Purim 2015 – 5775

Wednesday, March 4

Fast of Esther

4:53 a.m. Fast Begins

5:45 & 6:45 a.m. Shacharit

5:10 p.m. Mincha

Purim

6:15 p.m. Maariv, Megillah Reading (fast ends after Megillah reading. For those scheduled to hear a late reading, nightfall is at 6:12 pm and in case of necessity the fast can end after that time, after Maariv).

9:00 p.m. Second Megillah Reading

Thursday, March 5

Purim

5:35 a.m. Early Shacharit, Megillah Reading

8:00 a.m. Shacharit, Megillah Reading

9:15 a.m. Tefilat Nashim Megillah Reading

4:15 p.m. Mincha, Purim Seudah (note change of time)

6:15 p.m. Maariv

Parshat Zakhor & Purim

This Shabbat we read Parshat Zakhor. It's a Mitzvah from the Torah to hear Parshat Zakhor read from a Sefer Torah at the time of leining. Please make every effort to be in Shul for the actual leining during the Hashkamah Minyan or Later Minyan. It is questionable whether one actually fulfills this Mitzvah by hearing a repetition of Parshat Zakhor at the end of davening, not at a proper time of leining.

This Wednesday is Taanit Esther. The fast begins at 4:53 am Wednesday morning, and ends after the reading of the Megillah on Purim night.

Purim begins Wednesday evening at 6:12 pm. The Mitzvah of the night is to hear the Megillah.

Purim day we hear the Megillah again at Shacharit. The additional Mitzvot of Purim Day are:

1. Matanot le-Evyonim -- to give significant Tzedaka to two poor people on Purim Day itself. In our Kehillah we accomplish this by giving to the Young Israel Tzedaka Fund, which distributes part of the proceeds to local needy families on Purim day, and the other part to Yad Chesed which distributes funds to needy families in the Boston area on Purim day. To give to other institutional charities such as Hospitals, while worthy in itself, does NOT fulfill the Mitzvah of Matanot le-Evyonim, which must be given directly to financially needy people.

2. Mishloach Manot -- gifts of two different food items to one person. These gifts of food should be delivered by a messenger. Chevrat Nashim, the Mikveh Organization of the South Shore, runs a delivery service for this purpose, called UPS -- United Purim Service. You can drop off your food items at the Shul on Purim Night, in the front lobby, to be delivered on Purim Day, 75 cents per package, 40 cents per card -- and you can be more generous if you like!

3. Seudat Purim -- a festive meal, which should be started well before sunset (5:40 pm).