

The 4 Mitzvot of Purim

1. Megilla Reading

The primary mitzvah of Purim is **hearing the megilla twice:**

- ◆ **Once at night and once during the day.**
- ◆ This applies to **men and women**, and is fulfilled by hearing every word of the megilla read from a scroll.
- ◆ **If you miss a few words** you may catch up to the leiner by reading it yourself (even without a megilla scroll).
- ◆ Have in mind to fulfill your obligation of the **3 brachot prior to megilla reading** (answering amen after each one) through the one who recites them in shul.
- ◆ In the morning, have in mind that the shehechyanu also includes the **other mitzvot of the day** as well.
- ◆ One may recite the **bracha of “harav et riveynu” after megilla reading** along with the leiner.

2. Mishloach Manot

In order to promote a spirit of friendship and shared celebration, the megilla defines Purim as a day of “*mishloach manot ish l’reiyahu.*”

- ◆ Purim is a day when every Jewish man and woman is obligated to give at least **two kinds of fully prepared foods to at least one friend.**
- ◆ Because of the festive nature of this mitzvah, a **mourner should not give more than the one** obligatory Mishloach Manot gift; others should not give directly to the mourner.
- ◆ Because this mitzvah is meant to enhance the festivities of Purim Day and imbue it with a spirit of giving, the gifts **must be delivered during the daytime on Purim** itself to properly fulfill the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot.

3. Matanot L’Evyonim

In order to lift the spirits of those in need and enable them to rejoice on Purim:

- ◆ Every Jew is obligated to give a **monetary gift (of any amount) to at least two less fortunate individuals.**
- ◆ These monetary gifts **can be given to an agent in advance** of Purim, but must be given out to those in need by the giver or his/her agent on Purim Day itself.
- ◆ Halacha (Rambam) encourages us to **spend at least as much on Matanot L’Evyonim** as we do on our own Purim Seudah or Mishloach Manot.

4. Seudat Purim

The joyous nature of Purim is expressed by participating in a festive meal on Purim Day.

- ◆ This meal should include **bread, nicer Shabbat-type foods, and some wine.**
- ◆ It is preferable that the meal be in the afternoon, and that much of the meal be **eaten before sundown** (7:10 pm; at the minimum, the meal must be *started* before sundown).
- ◆ Of course, the **festivities can continue into the night.**

More Halachot & Customs

PARASHAT ZACHOR: Because Haman was a descendant of Amalek, the biblical commandment of “*Zachor et asher asah lecha Amalek*” (Deut. 25:17, Parashat Ki Tetzei) to remember that nation’s cruel attack on our people is fulfilled annually on the Shabbat before Purim—this year: **Shabbat, 3/7.**

TAANIT ESTHER: We fast on 13 Adar to commemorate the mobilization for war against our enemies and as a prelude to the salvation of Purim. The fast is named for Esther because she requested it, as it says, “...Gather all the Jews... in Shushan and fast over me, and do not eat and... drink 3 days... and I and my maidens will also fast...” (Esther 4:16). The original fast was on 14–16 Nissan when Mordechai was informed of Haman’s decree.

- The fast this year is on **Monday, 3/9 from 6:09 am–7:43 pm.**
- **With the exception of those who are ill, pregnant or nursing,** all adults should fast on Taanit Esther.

MACHATZIT HASHEKEL: In commemoration of the **half-shekel donated** annually to the Beit Hamikdash at this time of year to pay for upkeep and communal sacrifices, it is customary for every Jew to contribute 3 half-dollar coins on Erev Purim. We use 3 half-shekels because “Terumah” is mentioned 3 times in Parashat Ki-Tisa, in the account of the mitzvah of the half-shekel.

- **KMS will have baskets available in the lobby** with sets of three half-dollar coins both on Taanit Esther as well as on Purim Night and Day.
- **Procedure:** Place \$1.50 or more in the basket in order to ‘purchase’ the set of 3 half-dollar coins, lift the coins up to demonstrate ownership over them, and then deposit them back into the basket as a gift.
- **A Machatzit HaShekel gift should be given by, or on behalf of, men, women and even children below Bar/Bat Mitzvah age.** Money collected in these baskets will go to Tzedaka.

Purim at KMS: Schedule & Events

PARASHAT ZACHOR: SHABBAT, MARCH 7

1st Reading: Maftir at the end of Leining
2nd Reading: Following 8:45 am minyan
3rd Reading: 10 minutes before Mincha

TAANIT ESTHER: MONDAY, MARCH 9

Fast Begins: 6:09 am
Shacharit: 6:30 am (Tallit & Tefillin: 6:36 am)
Mincha: 6:45 pm
Fast Ends: 7:43 pm

PURIM NIGHT: MONDAY, MARCH 9

Maariv / Megilla (Sanctuary): 7:35 pm
Youth Maariv / Megilla (Social Hall): 7:35 pm
- Milk & Cookies Break-Fast following megilla reading, with Costume Contest & Purim Shpiel -
Purim Palooza: Approx 9:00 pm
Late Maariv/Megilla (Sanctuary): 9:30 pm
WTG Megilla (Beit Midrash): 9:30 pm

PURIM DAY: TUESDAY, MARCH 10

First Shacharit (Sanctuary): 6:30
(Tallit & Tefillin: 6:35 am)
Second Shacharit (Sanctuary): 8:00 am
Youth Shacharit (Sanctuary): 9:15 am
Low-Sensory Megilla, open to all (YBM): 10:45 am
Mincha: 4:00 pm (Shkia 7:10 pm)
KMS Purim Seudah: 5:30 pm
Maariv: 9:00 pm



Sunday, March 8, 10:00 am-12:00 pm: KMS/YISE Pre-Purim Carnival at YISE. \$5 per child; family max: \$25; pizza: \$3 per slice. See flyer [here](#).



Monday, 3/9 After 7:35 pm Megilla: Purim Palooza! A milk & cookies break-fast and costume contest followed by a dairy buffet with games and dancing with DJ RakDan! See flyer [here](#).



Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 pm: Join KMS for an Italian Purim Seudah! \$20/adults; \$10/children. Register [here](#). See flyer [here](#).

To Donate Matanot L'Evyonim:

THROUGH KMS BEFORE FRIDAY, 3/6 AT 12:00 PM:

- ◆ Online at kmsynagogue.org
- ◆ OR Cash/Check given directly to the office staff.

THROUGH KMS ON PURIM, 3/10 UNTIL 10:30 AM:

- ◆ Place donations in one of the Matanot L'Evyonim baskets in the lobby on Purim night or morning.

ALTERNATIVELY, FULFILL THE MITZVAH THROUGH:

- ◆ Yad Yehuda: yadyehuda.org/matanot-levyonim.html
- ◆ Od Yosef Chai: odyosefchai.org/matanot-levyonim
800-823-CHAI
- ◆ Global Jewish Assistance & Relief: globaljewish.org

Other Programs

- ◆ **CANDY DONATIONS:** Place leftover Mishloach Manot in the designated box in the lobby to be donated to Walter Reed/Red Cross.
- ◆ **ROSE AND BERNARD SINGER MEGILLAH READING PROGRAM:** The goal is to ensure that no one in our community misses out on hearing a megilla reading because of illness, infirmity, or due to some other reason that prevents him or her from getting to shul on Purim. If you or anyone you know needs someone to lein Megilla at home contact saul.singer@verizon.net.
- ◆ **EDIBLE GROGGERS INITIATIVE:** An initiative of Yad Yehuda's Capital Kosher Pantry - Bring your noise-making food that can be used as a grogger, such as nuts, rice, cereal, or chow mein noodles to Megilla. Then deposit your grogger in the collection box in the lobby after Megilla.

