

Pre-Passover Guidelines 5781

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Thursday, March 25—*Taanit Bechorin*

- The Fast of the Firstborn is observed, beginning at 5:18am.
- Firstborns may end their fast after attending a *siyum*, as usual. One may participate in the *siyum* via telephone or Zoom. Generally fathers of a firstborn son fast for their sons' till bar-mitzvah. There will be *siyumim* after EACH *shachrit* minyan at Shenk.
- For those fasting, the fast ends at 7:45pm.

Thursday Evening, March 25—The Search for *Chametz*

- Begin the search for *chametz* after 7:30pm.
- The regular procedure for *bedikat chametz* is followed and the blessing is recited. This is despite the fact that the search this year is performed two nights before Passover, not the night immediately preceding.
- After the search, set aside all the *chametz* to be used on Friday and Shabbat in a secure and controlled area.
- After completing the *bedikah* and putting away the remaining *chametz*, say: “All leaven and sourdough that is in my possession, which I have not seen and not destroyed, is nullified as the dust of the earth and ownerless.”

Friday, March 26—Disposing of *Chametz* and Preparing for Shabbat

- Dispose of any remaining *chametz* (besides what is needed for the rest of Friday and Shabbat). Preferably, one should burn this *chametz* by 11:45am. If one does not have easy access to a safe facility for burning, one should flush it down the toilet. Tentatively there will be a fire on the basketball court behind Strenger around 11:00am (still needs to be confirmed).
- If one did not dispose of the *chametz* in the morning, one may do so until Shabbat begins.
- *Chametz* may be eaten all day on Friday. However, utmost care must be taken to avoid spreading crumbs in one's home. If one loses track of the location of any leftover *chametz*, this may necessitate repeating *bedikat chametz*.
- Prepare the shankbone, egg, *charoset*, *maror*, and saltwater for the Seder. As much other preparation for the Seder as possible should be completed before Shabbat.
- If you do not have a pilot light, light a candle which burns for 3 days, to enable the lighting

of the Yom Tov candles on the first and second nights of Pesach.

General Guidelines for Shabbat, March 26-27

- Eat *chametz* bread at the Friday night and Shabbat morning meals.
 - One should have no more bread in one's home than could reasonably be consumed by each person during the Shabbat meals.
 - Even if labeled "not kosher for Passover," one should not use matzah at the Shabbat meals (especially the Shabbat morning meal).
- If one is extremely concerned about having any *chametz* in one's home on Shabbat, one may use egg matzah instead of bread for the Shabbat meals (note that on Pesach itself, Ashkenazim only permit egg matzah for the elderly or infirm).
 - Children may be fed egg matzah for the Shabbat meals in all cases. Children who are too young to understand the Passover story may be fed regular matzah.
- For the rest of the food eaten on Friday night and Shabbat morning, most people will find it most convenient to cook in Pesach utensils.
 - Even if one prepares food in year-round utensils, all provisions for Shabbat should be completely free of any *chametz*.
 - If cooking with year-round utensils, it is advisable to transfer the food into disposable containers and wash the cooking utensils before Shabbat.
- On Friday night and Shabbat morning, one may eat at a *chametz* table with *chametz* utensils. If choosing this option, it is recommended to use disposable utensils.
 - Most people will find it more convenient, however, to make *Kiddush* and *hamotzi* in an alternate location (e.g. a hallway), eat an egg's bulk of bread, and then wash their hands and continue the meal at the dining table with a Pesach tablecloth and utensils.
- Hot food should not be poured directly from a Pesach utensil into a *chametz* utensil.

Shabbat Day, March 27

- Matzah is forbidden to be consumed the entire day. In a pinch, one may consume egg matzah before 10:33am (as mentioned above).
- *Chametz* may only be consumed until 10:33am. As such, Shabbat morning services will be held early (7:15am) and one should hurry home from shul and begin the meal promptly.
- After finishing eating *chametz*, thoroughly clean the area in which *chametz* was eaten over Shabbat (in a manner permissible on Shabbat). Crumbs should be disposed of in the toilet rather than in the trash.
 - If using *chametz* utensils, these dishes may not be washed on Shabbat. They may be given a minimal rinse or wipe and must be stored away for Pesach with the rest

of one's *chametz* dishes.

- One need not finish the entire meal by 10:33am; it may continue after that time with Pesach foods.
- Any remaining *chametz* must be flushed down the toilet before 11:45am.
- After disposing of the remaining *chametz*, say: "All leaven and sourdough that is in my possession is nullified as the dust of the earth and ownerless." Make this declaration by 11:45am.
- *Seudah shlishit* can be eaten between 1:33pm and 4:05pm. This meal does not include bread or matzah, but should preferably include meat, fish and or fruit. One may eat matzah balls.
- After 4:05pm, one should eat only light snacks. If one neglected to eat *seudah shlishit* before this time, one may still eat it afterwards with a small amount of meat, fish, fruits, and vegetables, but one must make sure not to eat to satiation.
- No preparations for the Seder may take place before 7:56pm.

Saturday Night, March 27—First Night of Pesach

- One may not do anything forbidden on Shabbat until davening *maariv* with *vatodi'enu*. At the very least, one should recite "*baruch hamavdil bein kodesh lekodesh*." Neither of these should be done before 7:56pm.
- Light Yom Tov candles from an existing flame. Customs differ regarding the recitation of *shehecheyanu* at candle lighting.
- The Seder is conducted as normal, except *Havdalah* is included with *Kiddush* in the procedure known as *Yak'nehaz*. One may use the Yom Tov candles as the *Havdalah* candle.

Summary of Halachic Times for Shabbat Erev Pesach 5781 (Washington Heights)

Thursday, March 26

- **5:18am** Start of *Taanit Bechorim*
- **7:30pm** Earliest *Bedikat Chametz*

Friday, March 27

- **11:45am** Preferable deadline for destroying *chametz* besides what is needed for the rest of Friday and Shabbat
- **6:56pm** Shabbat Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 28

- **10:33am** Latest time to eat *chametz*
- **11:45am** Latest time to destroy *chametz*
- **1:33pm** Earliest time to eat *seudah shlishit*
- **4:05pm** Preferable deadline for eating *seudah shlishit*
- **7:56pm** Shabbat ends
- **1:00am (Sunday)** Deadline for eating *afikoman*