

ROSH CHODESH

INTRODUCTION TO ROSH CHODESH

Introduction to Rosh Chodesh

Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of the Jewish (lunar) month, is a minor holiday of one or two days, depending on whether the previous month was 29 or 30 days. When the preceding month is 30 days long, the 30th day becomes the first day of Rosh Chodesh and the second day of Rosh Chodesh is the first day of the succeeding month.

Rosh Chodesh used to be officially declared in Jerusalem each month by the Sanhedrin, based on evidence from at least two witnesses who had seen the new moon in the western sky. For the past 1700 years or so, the new moon (and the dates for the entire Jewish calendar) have been determined by a formula prescribed by Hillel HaNasi (then head of the Jewish community in Eretz Yisrael).

ROSH CHODESH: MOLAD

Molad

The molad (first appearance of the new crescent moon somewhere in the world but using Jerusalem time) is an average molad and may be more than 12 hours off the actual time of the moon's first appearance. It varies somewhat from month to month.

ROSH CHODESH: YA'ALEH V'YAVO

Ya'aleh V'Yavo on Rosh Chodesh

If you forgot (or are not sure if you said) ya'aleh v'yavo of:

Rosh Chodesh Ma'ariv

Don't repeat the amida. This applies to both ma'arivs on a two-day Rosh Chodesh.

Rosh Chodesh Shacharit or Mincha

- If you forgot: Repeat the amida of Rosh Chodesh shacharit or mincha.
- If you are not sure: Repeat the amida with the condition that if you had said ya'aleh v'yavo the first time, the second time is a voluntary prayer (tefilat nedava).

NOTE If Rosh Chodesh falls on Shabbat and you are not certain whether you said ya'aleh v'yavo at shacharit or mincha, you must repeat the amida without a condition.

ROSH CHODESH: UL'CHAPARAT PASHA

Shabbat-Rosh Chodesh: Adding Ul'Chaparat Pasha

SITUATION It is Rosh Chodesh in a Jewish leap year.

WHAT TO DO

Add "ul'chapat pasha" to musaf—from Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan through and including the second month of Adar.

REASON This blessing usually contains 12 requests--corresponding to the 12 months--and so in a leap year, we add ul'chapat pasha for the 13th month.

NOTE Don't say ul'chapat pasha on Rosh Chodesh Nisan or after that until the next Jewish leap year.