



A Good Beginning Takes Dedication

For I have taken the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution from the Children of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and I have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons as a perpetual statute taken from the Children of Israel. This is the [share] dedicated for Aaron and the [share] dedicated for his sons from the offerings by fire to the Lord, in that day when he brought them near to minister as priests to the Lord. These the Lord had commanded to be given them from the Children of Israel in the day that He anointed them. It is a perpetual statute throughout their generations. (Lev. 7:34-36)

The reiteration of the list of types of sacrifices and procedures in our Parasha is striking. Last week’s Parashah seemed to be an exhaustive list of all of the possible types of sacrifices and rules for each, and yet in this week’s Parashah we go through the list from the beginning again! But the two listings can be differentiated: In last week’s listing of the sacrifices, there was an emphasis upon the animal offered and how to offer that animal: How to slaughter, how to butcher the animal, how to sprinkle the blood, etc. The Parasha this week deals with each type of sacrifice in terms of delineating what the priests get (or don’t get) as their rightful share of each sacrifice and the restrictions upon what the priests can do with their portion. I find it interesting that the term “מִשְׁחָה” (“mishhat”) is used again here, a term we have previously translated as “inaugurated” or “anointed.”

But although this usage *is* in the context of the Priestly Inauguration which immediately follows, the list of the shares of the priests in the various offerings is not connected to the Inauguration Ceremony per se. Here the term goes back to the general meaning of something “dedicated.” Our Parashah is delineating what the rightful share and cooking procedures (or, in the case of the burnt-offering, how to properly burn and dispose of the ash) for the priests out of all the different types of sacrifices. And in all these cases, the priests’ only rightful share is that which has been dedicated and vouchsafed to them by our Torah’s sacrificial law given here – no more and no less. There probably is an indirect allusion in all this to the story of the sons of the Prophet Samuel, who helped themselves to much more than they were entitled. (We might describe Samuel’s sons with the opposite but similarly-spelled “moshhat” – “corrupt.”) By contrast, our Parashah emphasizes that the Priests were only allowed the allotted portions which our Torah’s Law **dedicates** to them.

Thinking about the Priestly Inauguration as a Dedication offers a new angle as to what it means to inaugurate someone or something: All beginnings of something really new, if they are to succeed, require a seriousness of purpose, a sense of **dedication** to the project being started. Aaron and his Sons, the Priests, underwent several stages of dedication and consecration to the Divine Service, for which they are in turn consecrated dedicated portions in return for their service. We too can learn from this that every true beginning requires us first to fully collect our thoughts and intentions to dedicate ourselves and devote our energies to the coming task. That is a good part of why we have elaborate Inaugurations in the first place. That’s what elaborate preparations and purifications for Passover and other occasions are also about: To appreciate the resources we will require in any new task and to fully **dedicate** ourselves to the new task at-hand.

Shabbat Tsav-Parah

March 29-30, 2024 | 20 Adar II, 5784

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Kaplan: p. 520 | Haftarah: p. 1278 | Parah: p. 756

Hertz: p. 429 | Haftarah: p. 999 | Parah: p. 652

Candle Lighting | 7:00 pm

Evening Services | 6:45 pm

Friday Night Lights | following services | Rabbi Soloveichik

Zemirot | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary

Shahrit | 9:00 am | Main Sanctuary

Shabbat Morning Shiur | At Morning Services | Rabbi Soloveichik

Tot Shabbat | 10:00 am | Fidanque Youth Room

Youth Groups | 10:00 am | Elias Room

Jr. Congregation | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue

Kiddush | following services

Shabbat Afternoon Class | 6:15 pm | Rabbi Soloveichik | Main Sanctuary

No Teen Shiur this week.

Evening Services | 7:00 pm

Habdala | 7:55 pm

Shabbat Parah: *We read the law concerning the ashes of the Red Heifer [Heb. "Parah Adumah"] from Numbers 19 to remind us of the purification ritual for the Paschal sacrifice.*

Weekday Service Times

Sunday Morning: 8:05 am | Monday-Friday Mornings: 7:05 am

Sunday-Thursday Evenings (Minha & Arbit): 6:30 pm

NEXT WEEK

Youth Soccer & Golf on Paved Paradise

Sundays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, April-June

Starts **THIS Wednesday, April 3**

(Summer Camps begin on June 24)

Members, use our promo code "Shearith15" for a 15% discount!

Soccer Stars in partnership with Congregation Shearith Israel is back for soccer and golf on our beautiful Paved Paradise lawn!

Check soccerstars.com for details and registration.

COMING UP

We know it's a big ask, but we need your help:

We have not yet reached CSS's minimum requirement to offer this important session

Become a Trained Shearith Israel Security Volunteer

For Registered Shearith Israel Members

In Person on Sunday, April 7 | 3:00-6:30 pm

Shearith Israel members and close friends are invited to apply to be a member of a Shearith Israel Volunteer Security Team through Community Security Service (CSS). CSS volunteers work in tandem with paid security and law enforcement.

In order to be certified, you will need to complete a 2-part training:

Part 1 - ONLINE: Self-paced online training (3-4 hours)

Part 2 - IN PERSON: Practical certification (3 hours),

Sunday, April 7 | 3:00-6:30 pm | At Shearith Israel

Refer to our emails for the registration link.

CSI Young Professionals & Base UWS present

Food Distribution & Torah Study

For Young Professionals, 20s & 30s

NEW DATE: Tuesday, April 9 | 7:00-9:15 pm | Meet at Base UWS, 99 CPW

(following 6:30 pm Evening Services at Shearith Israel)

Young Professionals will cook and distribute hot meals for those in need, followed by learning and discussion focused on the parasha. Participants are encouraged to join

our 6:30 pm Evening Services minyan.

Refer to our emails for the registration link.

Young Professionals Shabbat Dinner

Friday, April 12 | Ages 21-35

Registration coming soon!

PESAH IS COMING

Visit shearithisrael.org/pesah5784 in order to:

- Sell Your Hametz
 - Give Maot Hittim
 - Sponsor Rabbi Soloveichik's Shabbat HaGadol Derasha
 - View the Pesah Schedule
 - Refresh your memory of Pesah halakhot and customs
-

2024 YEAR OF HOPE

Our Year of Hope Capital Campaign officially ends
this Sunday, March 31.

Thank you to the many many congregants and friends who supported this effort and enabled us to reach our financial goal.

Join the list at shearithisrael.org/giving/year-of-hope.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to all whose contributions enhanced our Purim celebrations this year:

- The **Sisterhood**, for organizing Mishloah Manot
- Our **Women's Megillah Readers**: Jennifer Ash, Elizabeth Aufzien, Melissa Epstein, Beth Goldman, Annette Gourgey, Ariel Haberman, Janet Kirchheimer, Liliane Marks, Rachel McCoy, Liz Okin Ninyo, Lisa Rohde, and Julie Walpert
- Hazzan **Rabbi Rohde**, for chanting the megillah four times during the holiday
- Rabbinic Intern **Baruch-Lev Kelman**, for leading a lively Portuguese Pirate Parley for our youth
- Our **Purim Breakfast sponsors**: an anonymous sponsor; Mira Fernandez; the "Kaplowicz" (Yael & Matthew); and Arthur and Joel Tenenholtz, in memory of their father, Benjamin Tenenholtz

Hazak u'Barukh to the **Sunday Morning Mishna Class** upon completing the Tractate of Megillah.

In the Press

In the Wall Street Journal, Rabbi Soloveichik used the lens of the sci-fi classic film "The Matrix" to address the disconnection and isolation of humanity today, and how we can fight it. Read it on our press page at shearithisrael.org/resources/press.