IYAR

The Molad: Sunday morning, 5:20 and 1 portion.
The moon may be sanctified until Sunday, the 14th, 11:42 p.m.¹

The first day of Rosh Chodesh is on Sunday.
The second day of Rosh Chodesh is on Monday.

Iyar 2, Tuesday.
This day (Tiferes sheb’tiferes) marks the birthday of the Rebbe Maharash, in 5593 (1833).

Iyar 6, Shabbos Parsha K’doshim.
For the Haftorah, we read Vay’bi d’var A-donai... baldrosb osi atem ba’im... (Y’chezkel 20:2-20).
If there is a circumcision on Shabbos during the weeks of the Counting of the Omer, we do not recite Av harachamim.

We recite the second chapter of Pirkei Avos following the Afternoon Service.

Iyar 8, Monday, the first of the B’HaB fasts.

Iyar 11, Thursday, the second of the B’HaB fasts.

Iyar 13, Shabbos Parshas Emor.
In the Afternoon Service, Tzidkas’cha is recited.
We recite the third chapter of Pirkei Avos following the Afternoon Service.

This day marks the 70th yabrzeit of R. Yisroel Aryeh Leib, in 5712 (1952). His brother is R. DovBer. They are The Rebbe’s brothers.

Iyar 14, Sunday, Pesach Sheni.
Tachanun is not recited.
It is customary to eat matzah at the daytime meal.²

Iyar 15, Monday, the third of the B’HaB fasts.

Iyar 17, Wednesday.
On this day, we complete the annual cycle of three chapters per day of Rambam’s Mishneh Torah, as ordained by The Rebbe, for the 41st time.
Tachanun is not recited in the Afternoon Service.

Iyar 18, Thursday, Lag B’Omer.
This day marks the Hilula of Rabbi Shimon bar

¹. The times for sanctifying the moon are based on Jerusalem Standard Time.
Yochai (the Rashbi).

This is an auspicious day. Tachanun is not recited.

It is customary to kindle many lights in the synagogue and to mark the day with rejoicing,3 as this is the Rashbi’s wish. In many places in Eretz Yisrael, particularly in Meron, the resting place of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, bonfires are lit in his honor.

It is customary to eat carobs, recalling the carobs which Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son, Rabbi Elazar, ate while they were hiding in the cave.4

On this day Rabbi Akiva’s students stopped dying.

In Eretz Yisrael, it is customary to gather at the resting place of the holy tanna Rashbi, in Meron, to beg for mercy from heaven for all of Klal Yisrael, and in particular for those supporting Eretz Yisrael via the Charities of Rabbi Meir Baal Haness.

Iyar 20, Shabbos Parshas B’har.

For the Haftorah, we read Vayomer Yirmeyahu...aretz zavas chalav u’d’vash (Yirmeyahu 32:6-22).

We recite the fourth chapter of Pirkei Avos following the Afternoon Service.

Iyar 27, Shabbos Parshas B’chukosai, Shabbos M’varchim.

For the third aliya, the reader ascends to the Torah without being called. He recites the blessings before and after the Torah reading.

We bless the month of Sivan, announcing Rosh Chodesh, which falls on the coming Tuesday.

In contrast to other Shabbosim on which the coming month is blessed, we recite the passage Av barachim. We do not, however, recall souls who have passed away by reciting the passage E-l malei ra’achanim, unless they were interred that week.

We recite the fifth chapter of Pirkei Avos following the Afternoon Service.

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3. See the explanation of this custom in the works of the Chida, and in Likkutei Sichos, Vol. IV, p. 1304.
Iyar 29, Monday, Erev Rosh Chodesh.
*Tefillat Nefesh* is not recited in the Afternoon Service.