IYAR

The Molad: Monday morning, 7:47 and 6 portions.
The moon may be sanctified until Tuesday, the 15th, 2:09 a.m.¹

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

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

Iyar 5, Shabbos Parshas Tazria-M’tzora.
When 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 7, Monday, the first of the B’HaB fasts.

Iyar 10, Thursday, the second of the B’HaB fasts.

Iyar 12, Shabbos Parshas Acharei-K’doshim.
For the Haftorah, we read Halo chiv’nei Chushiyim (Amos 9:7-15).

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

Iyar 13, Sunday.
This day marks the yahrzeit of R. Yisroel Aryeh Leib, in 5712 (1952). His brother is R. DovBer. They are The Rebbe’s brothers.

In the Afternoon Service, Tachanun is recited.

Iyar 14, Monday, Pesach Sheni.
Tachanun is not recited.
It is customary to eat matzah at the daytime meal.²
This is the third of the B’HaB fasts.

Iyar 17, Thursday.
We do not recite Tachanun in the Afternoon Service.

Iyar 18, Friday, Lag B’Omer.
The Hilula of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (the Rashbi).

¹. The times for sanctifying the moon are based on Jerusalem Standard Time.
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, 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.

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, in order 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 19, Shabbos Parshas Emor.**
We recite the fourth chapter of Pirkei Avos following the Afternoon Service.

**Iyar 26, Shabbos Parshas B’har-B’chukosai, Shabbos M’varchim.**

For the fifth aliyah, the reader ascends to the Torah without being called. He recites the blessings before and after the Torah reading. For the Haftorah, we read Adonai uzi (Yirm’yahu 16:19-17:14).

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

In contrast to other Shabbosim on which the coming month is blessed, we recite the passage Av harachamim. We do not, however, recall souls who have passed away by reciting the passage Eli malei rachamim, 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.