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Dear St Mary's,

Rosh Hashanah



Rosh Hashanah is about the start of a Jewish New Year. Rosh means head, Hashanah means year. We have a big feast and dip apple in honey. We do that so we have a sweet new year. We also have a fish head on the table because it's the head of a fish and the head of the year. Some people eat the fish head. You don't have to have a fish head but you can get fake ones. Unlike a secular year Rosh Hashanah starts in September.

Shofar

The shofar is a wakeup call. It is made from a ram's horn and we blow it on Rosh Hashanah. It wakes us up to do good deeds. Rosh Hashanah is a day of repentance. We remember our bad deeds and say sorry. There are 4 sounds of the Shofar.



Ten Commandments

Moshe (the Jewish leader) went up a special mountain to get the Ten Commandments (a holy tablet). After 40 days learning and speaking to Hashem Moshe came down the mountain and found to his horror the Jewish people had built a golden calf. One of the rules in the Ten Commandments is there is only one god. Moshe dropped the tablets and they shattered. He went back up the mountain for 40 more days then finally came down the mountain with the tablets. One of the reasons we have a ram's horn for the shofar is because the Jewish people built a golden calf. This is a few days after Rosh Hashanah.

Round Challah

A challah is a type of bread we eat. It is plaited and taste great but on Rosh Hashanah we have a round challah because the year goes round and round forever, unless the world gets destroyed.

Shul

Every Saturday we have to go to shul. Well only frum people go every Saturday. But on Rosh Hashanah you can go every day if you want. That's where we hear the shofar, but it does get boring after a while because you hear and sing so many praises for hours. There is a children's service and we can play games and other stuff. It's a lot like church. On special occasions we get sweets and it can be fun.

The chosen mountain

There were 4 mountains a tall one a fat one a thin one and a little one. All the mountains apart from the little one boasted. One day Moshe said" I need one mountain that I can get the Ten Commandments from. All the mountains started boasting about I am the tallest and so on but Moshe didn't chose them he chose the small little mountain and that was the mountain he got the Ten Commandments from.

Yours sincerely,

Louis