



TEMPLE SINAI
B'nei Mitzvah

Dear Families,

With so many aspects of our lives and celebrations up in the air, we are doing all we can to prepare for a smooth and meaningful service for your child, family and community. This “to-do list” replaces the regular “Rabbi” section of your students’ binders for as long as we have to be prepared to do any part of your service over Zoom. You can find samples of services that have already taken place on Zoom, as well as sample programs, on the “B’nei Mitzvah” page of our website.

Zooming from home or from the Sanctuary

Families have a choice of either Zooming from their homes or from the Sanctuary. If you are considering Zooming from the Sanctuary, please review our parameters as described in the [Protocols for Zooming B’nei Mitzvah services in the Sanctuary](#).

Parents’ Blessing (Speech)

Our service opens with a song and then some words by the student’s parents. We would like for your speech to include an initial welcome to everyone on the Zoom, and then for you to give a special blessing to your child. This is not intended to be a description of who s/he is. Rather, it should say something to them about why this milestone is important to you, and what you hope it means to your child. It is usually about 200 words per parent. You can read a sample of a parent’s blessing [here](#).

Talitot

After the parents’ blessing is shared, the parents will present a tallit to the student. You can order one online, contact the Women of Temple Sinai to view their collection, or use a family tallit.

Family and Friend Participation

There are English readings and Hebrew prayers that you can invite friends and family to do.

There are three English readings. The first is a blessing near the beginning of the service. It is a perfect honor for non-Jewish grandparents or other honored guests who may be less familiar with the service. The other two readings are parts of the liturgy sprinkled throughout. You can view these readings [here](#).

One of the highest honors in the service is reciting the Torah blessings. The full Torah portion your child will read will be broken into smaller pieces, called aliyot. Before and after each of these, a blessing will be said. The number of aliyot each student chants is determined by your child’s study with the Cantor. There must be at least one Jewish person in every group of people reciting a Torah blessing and all must be 13 or over. You can find the text of the blessing, [here](#) and click on the blue text for a recording for the [Blessing Before the Torah](#) reading or the [Blessing After the Torah](#) reading.

Torah Passing

The Torah passing can be either be passed physically or verbally. Generally, we pass it physically if you zoom from the sanctuary, and verbally if not all generations are present in the same location. Our service includes specific language for each generation to read.

Jewish grandparents and all parents participate in the Torah passing.

Program

The program will include a list of those participating, thank you messages from the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and a 100-word introduction of your child. It can be descriptive of who they are and the kinds of things they do, like, and care about. You can see a sample of a program [here](#).

Kiddush Cup

If you are Zooming from the Sanctuary, your child's personalized Kiddush cup will be placed in the Sanctuary before your service. We will deliver a challah for the Friday evening service, your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah certificate, and a few other items to your home the Friday before your child's service. If you are zooming from home, your kiddush cup will be delivered to you as well.

Service Prayer Sheets

There is a [Leader's Edition](#) of the service that the Bat/Bar Mitzvah will use to lead, and a [Shabbat Service](#) that you can share with friends and family.

Rehearsals

There will be two rehearsals, one with each of the rabbis. If you don't already have rehearsals scheduled, Betsy (betsy@oaklandsinai.org) will be in touch to schedule them. We ask that parents attend the final rehearsal.

Zoom Link

We will email the Zoom link for your service, the digital program and the digital prayer sheet as attachments, a couple of days ahead of your service. You can forward them to your guests at that time. In general, we have found that sending Zoom links close to the time of the gathering works best for enabling people to find it.

Motzi

Younger siblings or younger cousins will be asked to help lead the Motzi. If you are Zooming from the Sanctuary, motzi will be symbolic, as no food is allowed in the Sanctuary.