



TEMPLE EMANUEL

B'nai Mitzvah Program Overview

The clergy and staff at Temple Emanuel are excited to celebrate with you as your children become Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Below is short overview of our B'nai Mitzvah program. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Clergy Assistant Patricia Lackner at 303-388-4013.

4th Grade: Date Program and Date Assignments

Join together with other 4th grade families, the clergy, and the Director of the Religious School for an introductory program all about becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel. Fill out date preferences and receive your official Bar/Bat Mitzvah date and Torah portion.

12-16 Months Before Date: Meals and Mitzvah Shabbaton

Join with other 6th/7th grade families to learn and connect around your child becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We begin this program with a Shabbat morning meeting followed by 4 classes on Wednesday evenings. Our Religious School administrator will be in touch with you about these dates.

9-11 Months Before Date: B'nai Mitzvah Launch

Gather with other families becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah in your season to hear all the details of preparing to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Meet with all of the clergy and staff who will help guide you on your way, receive your clergy team assignments, and most importantly, receive your Torah portion books!

NOTE: Service attendance requirements begin now!

7-9 Months Before Date: Cantor Portion Meeting

B'nai Mitzvah students meet with their officiating cantor/Cantorial soloist to explore and set the Torah portion they will prepare. Students should have read their Torah portion in English prior to this meeting.

7-8 Months Before Date: Tutoring Process Begins

Students enter B'nai Mitzvah class or begin tutoring; Clergy Assistant schedules clergy meetings and rehearsals.

5 Months Before Date: 1st Cantor Meeting

Students will meet periodically with their officiating cantor to track their progress and build a relationship.

3 Months Before Date: 2nd Cantor Meeting

2 Months Before Date: 1st Rabbi Meeting for D'var Torah

Students will meet with their officiating rabbi to begin crafting their D'var Torah (speech).



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2 Months Before Date: Bulletin Materials

Send us your best picture of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah student! Family information for the bulletin and oneg sponsorship is due to our Religious School Administrator.

1.5 Months Before Date: 2nd Rabbi Meeting for D'var Torah

1 Month Before Date: 3rd Rabbi Meeting for D'var Torah

2 Weeks Before Date: 4th Rabbi Meeting for D'var Torah

1 Week Before Date: 1 Cantor Rehearsal, 1 Rabbi and Cantor Rehearsal

Students will have the chance to rehearse in the Sanctuary and practice reading from the Torah scroll during the week. Every family rehearses together with their Rabbi and Cantor in the Sanctuary on the Friday before their Bar/Bat Mitzvah at 9:00am (9:00am families) or 11:30am (11:30am families).

Shabbat of Bar/Bat Mitzvah – Friday Evening, 5:30pm

We expect all families to join us at Friday evening Shabbat services the night before your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Your family and your students will participate in the service (candle lighting, Torah blessing, Kiddush) and will be recognized before the congregation. Our Friday evening Shabbat schedule is:

- 5:30pm Pre-Oneg (appetizers and drinks)
- 6:00-7:15pm Shabbat Evening Worship

Day of Bar/Bat Mitzvah – Schedule!

9:00am Bar/Bat Mitzvah	11:30am Bar/Bat Mitzvah
7:45am Arrive for photography in Sanctuary	10:00am Arrive for photography in Building/Sanctuary
8:25am Clergy photo + Restrooms	10:55am Clergy Photo + Restrooms
8:30am Immediate Family Ceremony	11:00am Immediate Family Ceremony
9:00am-10:30am Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony	11:30am-1:00pm Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony

Photography:

Please note that there is no photography during the actual Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. All families are invited to take photographs either at the Friday rehearsal or on Saturday before the ceremony. The clergy will arrive 30-35 minutes before the service time to take out the Torah scroll so that you can take pictures with the Torah and your family. We do not permit families to take out the Torah scrolls on their own.

Mazal Tov! Your Simcha has Arrived! We are very excited to celebrate with you!