

Guidelines for *B'nei Mitzvah* Parents' Prayer

Just before your son or daughter comes forward to the *Torah* for his or her *Maftir Aliyah*, we invite you to offer a brief and personal Parents' Prayer in his or her honor. This is a special and often emotional moment. Occasionally, parents choose not to speak, preferring a more private expression of their feelings. It's now time for you to consider what you wish to say on the *bimah*.

Please note the following guidelines for your Parents' Prayer:

- a. The content of your prayer is an expression of gratitude. Please reflect on your child's character and special spirit rather than recount his or her many activities or accomplishments.
- b. Less is more! In sensitivity to the flow of our service and your child's comfort, **limit your total prayer to 200 words**, please!
- c. We rabbis hope you can appreciate our request to review your prayer prior to your family's celebration. In that way, you and we can know we achieved our goals for this experience. We're also happy to help you craft your prayer, if you would like assistance.