

B'nai Mitzvah Guidelines

At Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El we strive to make your B'nai Mitzvah a special time in your lives that you will cherish forever. B'nai Mitzvah are scheduled for Saturday morning at 10:15am. We also offer Friday night B'nai Mitzvah and Saturday, 5:30pm Havdalah services for those families who choose to use our exclusive caterer, VIP Caterers. We tailor each service to your needs and requests, involving many members of your family, friends, and loved ones.

B'nai Mitzvah dates are assigned by Cantor Mark at least two years prior to your special day. In 6th grade, Rabbi Needleman and Cantor Goldman conduct B'nai Mitzvah family programming throughout the year. During these meetings, our perspective B'nai Mitzvah families get together with our clergy to explore the meaning and significance of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El. We also talk about the “nuts and bolts” of preparation as well as what to expect on the day of your B'nai Mitzvah.

During the year of B'nai mitzvah, your family will be encouraged to participate in a mitzvah project of your choice. Our clergy will chat with you about the different ways in which your B'nai mitzvah may be enhanced through acts of loving kindness and tikkun olam (perfecting our world). We'd love to see you during services, Temple and youth programming, as well as the many social, cultural, and educational offerings at 8200.

During the 12 months prior to your date, you're required to attend at least 12 Shabbat services. There's a sign-in sheet provided at the entrance of the sanctuary or chapel!

B'nai Mitzvah lessons take place weekly on an individual basis, starting 5-6 months prior to your date. Cantor Mark is delighted to meet with you in person or on SKYPE, or a combination of both, whichever is the most convenient and works with your family dynamic and schedule. In addition to preparing your child to lead our service, read from the Torah, and chant the Haftarah, Cantor Goldman will help you and your family with the writing of the bar/bat mitzvah speech and parents' speech. At Kol Ami Emanu-El we cherish the relationship with our congregational family. To this end, Rabbi Needleman meets with every B'nai Mitzvah family on an individual basis throughout the year.

B'nai Mitzvah final rehearsals take place two weeks prior and the week of B'nai mitzvah in our sanctuary with Rabbi Needleman. Lisa Pearlman, the clergy secretary will contact you one month prior to your B'nai mitzvah to schedule these rehearsals. Photographers are welcome in the sanctuary prior to the B'nai mitzvah service, up to 30 minutes prior to the start of services. They may continue to take pictures and video the service from the very back of the sanctuary. Please send Lisa Pearlman the 'certificate of insurance' at least one month prior to the service. Lisa's email address is lpearlman@tkae.org. Please also schedule the times of pictures with Lisa.

We're excited to make this an incredibly special and meaningful day in the life of your family and friends. Please don't hesitate to contact the clergy if you have any questions whatsoever.