

The Big Weekend

Mazal Tov and congratulations on your forthcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Please refer to this document for important information and reminders.

Thursday Morning:

7:30am – On the Thursday before your Bar/Bat Mitzvah, please join our morning Minyan service in Kohn Chapel. The service is led by one of the Cantors. Parents are invited to open the Ark and family and friends are encouraged to attend this first celebration of the weekend. Our B'nai mitzvah wear Tallit, T'fillin (optional, but encouraged), lead us in Sh'ma and V'ahavta, and are called to the Torah for an Aliyah (they recite the Blessings Before and After the Torah reading). They will receive a blessing and a gift to mark this special occasion. Services conclude by 8:30am. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early for assistance with Tallit and T'fillin.

8:50am – Students in Sinai Akiba participate in the Middle School Torah service while school is in session. Please contact Rabbi Feig afeig@lainerschool.org for details.

Friday Evening:

5:45pm - On Friday evening, in Kohn Chapel our B'nai Mitzvah lead us in selections of prayers (Sh'ma, V'ahavta, L'ma'an Tizk'ru, V'sham'ru, Kiddush, and Aleinu). The service is led by one of the Cantors. The parents of the B'nai Mitzvah are invited to light and say the blessing over the Shabbat candles. At the end of the service, parents present the B'nai Mitzvah with the Kiddush cup (provided by Sinai) for their child to recite Kiddush. Services conclude by 6:45pm. Please arrive 15-20 minutes early.

Saturday Morning: (Please note that all times are approximate. Please advise your guests to arrive early).

9:00-9:20am – P'sukei D'zimrah (Preliminary) Service in Kohn Chapel. Your family is welcome but not required to attend our preliminary service.

9:30am – Services begin in Ziegler Sanctuary. Please be in your seats by 9:25am. Your seats are the middle two sections in the second row. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah should be seated in the second row aisle seat (A1 or A2). The service begins with opening prayers and our Shacharit service. When you arrive, one of the honors Gabbayim (Service Helpers) will ask the B'nai Mitzvah for their binder who will then deliver it to the Cantor.

10:00am – Torah service begins. The Honors Gabbay (Service helper) will ask you to identify the members you will be honoring during the service and will provide further instructions. Family members from each family open the ark and the Torah is processed around the congregation carried by the Cantor. 7 Aliyot (Torah readings) take place with members of each family being called to the Torah. Parents are given the final Aliyot and bring their child's Tallit up with them to the Torah. All honorees walk up the center steps and comes down the side steps next to the Cantor's podium. Anyone reciting an Aliyah should be familiar with the Torah Blessings and know their Hebrew name. PDFs and mp3s of the Torah Blessings with English and Farsi transliteration are available from the Cantor's office.

10:30am – B’nai Mitzvah are called to the Torah. They walk up the center stairs and come to the Torah. Parents present their Tallit to the Cantor who presents it to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. They say the Tallit blessing and put on the Tallit. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah says the Blessing before the Torah, chants the Maftir Torah portion, and says the Blessing after the Torah. Afterwards, s/he sits on the chairs behind the Cantor’s podium. Once your child has finished their Maftir, parents return to their seats. The Torah is lifted and dressed by members of the family. Please remind your family that our custom is to not cheer or applaud when your child is called to the Torah.

10:35am – Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech and Haftarah. Each child will deliver their D’var Torah (speech). We do not allow cheering or applause after the speeches. At the conclusion of the Haftarah, the B’nai Mitzvah chant the Blessing before the Haftarah, the Haftarah portion (split in half for a double), and the Blessing after the Haftarah. While there is no good time to pass out candy (which you provide), this would be the appropriate time to distribute. Please make sure the candy is kosher, soft, and individually wrapped.

10:50am - Upon concluding the Haftarah blessings, the B’nai Mitzvah leave their binders on the Cantor’s podium, walk over to the Rabbi’s podium for the rabbi’s charge and presentation of gifts. They then stand in front of the Ark and receive the Priestly Blessing from the Rabbi and Cantor. They then turn around and walk back to their seats as we sing “Siman Tov” and shower them with candy! The Rabbi and Cantor lead the congregation in the Prayer for Our County and the Prayer for Israel. Once a month, the prayer blessing the New Month is added.

10:55am – The Cantor recites Y’hal’lu and brings the Torah down to the congregation. Each B’nai Mitzvah will walk half way down the center isle carrying the Torah. Upon reaching the back of the sanctuary, the Cantor will carry the Torah and the B’nai Mitzvah will follow in procession followed by the Rabbis and the members sitting on the Bima. The B’nai Mitzvah families do not follow in the processional. When the Cantor reaches the Bima, the B’nai Mitzvah return to their seats without ascending the stairs. The Torah is returned to the Ark as we sing Eitz Chayim.

11:00am – Musaf Service led by the Cantor. Sometimes there will be a guest speaker or special musical interlude before Musaf begins.

11:30am – Rabbi’s Sermon. During the Rabbi’s sermon, the B’nai Mitzvah should open their binders to the Aleinu prayer so that they are ready to lead upon the conclusion of Ein Keloheinu.

11:45am – Ein Keloheinu is sung by the congregation and then the B’nai Mitzvah walk up the center staircase and lead the congregation in Aleinu. Upon conclusion of the prayer, they walk back down the center staircase and return to their seats.

11:50-12:00pm – Conclusion of service. Mourner’s Kaddish (prayer for recalling loved ones) is recited following by announcements. B’nai Mitzvah are then invited up to the Bima (without their binders) to join in Adon Olam and lead the congregation in the Shabbat Blessings: Kiddush over the grape juice, hand washing blessing, and the Motzi. Services conclude by noon with Rabbi’s benediction. **Mazal Tov!**