

The B'nei Mitzvah Timeline

3 Years in Advance:

Request a date for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah from the Ritual Office
Enroll the B.M. in the Religious School and attend Shabbat services on a regular basis.

1 Year in Advance:

The B.M. begins a Trope/Torah class with the hazzan. The class goes for 10 weeks and includes the fundamentals of reading Torah and Haftarah as well the nusach for leading Shabbat services. The B.M. will begin studying their parasha within the course of the class. The family should indicate the type of service that they would prefer (e.g. with or without instruments, etc.)

8-12 Months in Advance:

The hazzan will match the B.M. with a specially trained tutor who will prepare the student for the event.
The student will meet with the hazzan every 2 months to monitor progress and offer guidance.
There will be periodic study sessions with the rabbis to familiarize families with the ritual process of the b'nei mitzvah and to study individual Torah portions.

2-3 Months in Advance:

The B.M. will begin working on a speech with one of the rabbis. 3 or 4 meetings will be scheduled with the hazzan to discuss service leadership and ensure comfort with the readings.

1 Month in Advance:

The family will indicate which members from the family, if any, would like to read from the Torah at the event. The final assignments will be made by the clergy. All those reading must insure that they read for the hazzan at least one week in advance of the event.
At this time, the family should identify those people who should be given an honor in the service. Guidelines for giving honors are available from the Ritual Office.

1 Week in Advance:

The hazzan will conduct a complete rehearsal in the Sanctuary, including all Torah readings. The B.M. will attend either the Monday morning or the Thursday morning minyan, lead the Torah service and receive an aliyah. It is expected that the Bar Mitzvah will wear tefillin at the service. The B.M. will also participate in the Friday evening service, leading the congregation in selected prayers.