



Temple Rodeph Torah

What Will Happen Between Now and Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebration?

Dear Families,

Here is an overview of the entire schedule of programs, meetings and lessons which will help all of you prepare for your family's Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration. Please remember that we welcome your questions, and prefer that you ask *us* rather than your friends when you have a question!

Fall of 4th Grade: Orientation meeting for all Bar/Bat Mitzvah families; Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates are given out.

Fall of the year before your celebration

- 1) Orientation meeting for all Bar/Bat Mitzvah families, giving important information for parents and children, and distributing Torah portions.
- 2) Workshop for all Bar/Bat Mitzvah families, starting the discussion of what you are looking forward to, what you are worried about and how you can use this experience to grow as a family. Torah portion summaries are due.

Five months before: Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Exploration Guide will contact you to schedule four 1-hour lessons to help explore the prayers and Torah portion and brainstorm ideas for the sermon. The goal is to make personal connections and to create a project that makes your celebration unique.

Five months before: Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor will contact you to schedule lessons, and the clergy assistant will call to schedule meetings with the rabbi and cantor. For lessons to be scheduled, service attendance must be completed and the Torah summary and choice must be turned in.

You will have:

- Eleven 30-minute weekly lessons with the tutor.
- Two 30-minute lessons and one 1-hour rehearsal with the Cantor
- A Family meeting, Torah portion/sermon meeting, and dress rehearsal with the rabbi.

Three months before: Your family will meet with the rabbi to review the honors and *aliyot* which you have to give to family and friends, and to answer all your questions.

One Month Before: Your optional Mitzvah Project should be completed and turned into the rabbi or School Educator.

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Ten days before (except for holidays and vacations): Dress rehearsal, 5-7pm. We ask that your family please clear this date, as it involves several people and use of the sanctuary.

Friday night before: The Bar/Bat Mitzvah and one parent will lead candle lighting, and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and one parent will lead *Kiddush*.

The Celebration Day: The sanctuary will be open and ready for you to take pictures 90 minutes before the service start time.

Services last approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Some of these things require explanation, and we will be sure you understand everything in advance. In the meantime, we encourage you to ask questions of any member of the Rodeph Torah staff. That's why we are here.

Mazal tov on your upcoming celebration!