



SEPHARDIC TEMPLE TIFERETH ISRAEL B'NAI MITZVAH CEREMONY GUIDELINES

1. SPEECH

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah shares a message about Torah with the congregation and his/her interpretation as it relates to life. It is customary to thank family, friends, clergy, and teachers for their support. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah also shares their Mitzvah Project with the community.

2. TORAH READING

It is the practice at Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel for the Bar Mitzvah to read from the Torah and the Bat Mitzvah to read from the Haftarah.

3. BAR & BAT MITZVAH PRAYERS

Children will be invited to recite Yim Loch, Ashrei, the complete Shema, Mizmor L'David, Ein K'eloheinu, and Adon Olam during Shabbat morning services.

4. REHEARSAL AND TEFILLIN SERVICES

An integral part of preparation for the ceremony is the rehearsal, where immediate family and friends walk through various aspects of the service. This ensures everyone is comfortable in the sanctuary and familiar with procedures. Photography and videotaping are permitted during the rehearsal and Tefillin service in Candiotty Chapel on the Monday or Thursday prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. **IMPORTANT:** Photography and videotaping are not permitted during Shabbat services.

5. DECORUM

A Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a sacred, joyous, and meditative religious ceremony. All family members and guests are asked to arrive by 9:00 AM. Dress with respect for Shabbat. Modest and elegant attire is appropriate. Respectful behavior is expected in the sanctuary at all times. Children must be supervised by parents. Cell phones and electronic devices are not permitted on Shabbat. Please ensure all guests are informed. Photography and recording are not permitted during Shabbat services.

6. KASHRUT

The synagogue will provide candy and a basic Kiddush for the simcha. Any additional food arrangements must be coordinated with Melissa Thompson. **OUTSIDE CANDY AND FOOD ARE STRICTLY**

PROHIBITED.

7. FAMILY HONORS

On the Shabbat morning of the ceremony, the family is granted 4 Aliyot and all 10 mitzvot.

8. PARENT REMARKS

Parents are welcome to deliver remarks at their child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. The speech should focus on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child and the significance of the occasion and remain appropriate for a synagogue setting; political commentary, current events commentary, or unrelated topics are not permitted. Either one or both parents may speak, with a strict combined maximum of three (3) minutes and four hundred (400) words. If parents wish to speak, speeches must be submitted to the President (josh@sephardictemple.org) for review and approval no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, including contact information so the President may follow up regarding logistics. To ensure fairness for all families, speeches will be stopped during the service if they exceed the time limit or if the delivered remarks differ significantly from the approved version.