The Festival of Hanukkah

Lighting the Candles

The Hanukkah candles should be lit after sunset. The menorah should be placed near the window for public view, to "proclaim the miracle" of the oil that lasted for eight days.

On the first night of Hanukkah, place one candle on the far right side of the menorah. Light the Shamash (the ninth candle set higher from the rest) and recite the blessings. Use the Shamash to light the other candles. Add one candle each night of Hanukkah and light them from left to right.

Blessing over Candles

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam
Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, sovereign of the universe

אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו
asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu
who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us

להדליק נר של חנכה
l'had'lik neir shel Hanukkah.
to light the lights of Hanukkah.

Blessing for Hanukkah

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam
Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, sovereign of the universe

שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה
she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baziman hazeh.
who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time.

Shehecheyanu *(first night only)*

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam
Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, sovereign of the universe

שהחינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה
shehecheyanu v'kiyimanu v'higi'anu laz'man hazeh.
who has kept us alive, sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

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