B”H

Chanukah 5787 - 2026

Blessings on the Chanukah Menorah

Chanukah 2026 begins Friday evening, December 4, and continues through Saturday, December 12. The following two (or three) blessings are said while holding the shammash (the helper candle), immediately before the menorah is lit.

The Blessings

First blessing (every night)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חֲנֻכָּה

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech ha-olam a-sher ki-de-sha-nu be-mitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-va-nu le-had-lik ner Cha-nu-kah.

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

Second blessing (every night)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בִּזְמַן הַזֶּה

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam she-a-sa ni-sim la-avo-te-nu ba-ya-mim ha-hem bi-zman ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

Third blessing (first night only, or the first time you light this Chanukah)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לִזְמַן הַזֶּה

Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lo-he-nu Me-lech Ha-olam she-hehe-ya-nu ve-ki-yi-ma-nu ve-higi-a-nu liz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

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Chanukah 2026 Lighting Guide

The menorah is lit after sundown, except on Friday, when it is lit before sundown and before the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night it is lit only after Shabbat ends.

Date (evening)	Lights	Blessings	When
Friday, Dec. 4	1	1, 2 & 3	Before sundown, before Shabbat candles
Saturday, Dec. 5	2	1 & 2	After Shabbat ends
Sunday, Dec. 6	3	1 & 2	After sundown
Monday, Dec. 7	4	1 & 2	After sundown
Tuesday, Dec. 8	5	1 & 2	After sundown
Wednesday, Dec. 9	6	1 & 2	After sundown
Thursday, Dec. 10	7	1 & 2	After sundown
Friday, Dec. 11	8	1 & 2	Before sundown, before Shabbat candles

If this is your first time lighting this Chanukah, say blessing 3 as well, on whichever night that is.

After the lighting we say:

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אָנוּ מַדְלִיקִין, עַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלָאוֹת, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ, בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בִּזְמַן הַזֶּה

עַל יְדֵי כֹּהֲנֶיךָ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים, וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יְמֵי חֲנֻכָּה, הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאֵין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶן,

אֶלָּא לִרְאוֹתָן בִּלְבָד, כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל, עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעוֹתֶיךָ.

We kindle these lights [to commemorate] the saving acts, miracles and wonders which You have performed for our forefathers, in those days at this time, through Your holy priests. Throughout the eight days of Chanukah, these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to make use of them, but only to look at them, in order to offer thanks and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, for Your wonders and for Your salvations.

Happy Chanukah! May the light of the menorah bring light and strength to you and your family.

For more information and for Chanukah supplies, contact Aleph Institute, 5804 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 • www.alephne.org • info@alephne.org