LASRY ACADEMY

Hanukkah Candle-Lighting

Hanukkah 5787 · 2026

From Friday evening, Dec 4 (25 Kislev) until Shabbat, Dec 12, 2026

HOW TO LIGHT

1. Place the candles right to left, and light left to right: the new candle each night is placed on the left and is lit first.
2. Light the shamash (helper candle) first and use it to light the others. The candles stand in one line, with the shamash set higher.
3. Say the blessings before lighting: the first two every night, and "Shehecheyanu" on the first night as well.
4. Light at a doorway or window; then say Haneirot Halalu and sing Maoz Tzur.

1st blessing: lighting the candle

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חֲנֻכָּה.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner Chanukah.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah light.

2nd blessing: the miracles

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days, at this season.

3rd blessing: Shehecheyanu (first night only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֱיָנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melekh ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

THE EIGHT NIGHTS (NUMBER = LIGHTING ORDER)



Night 1
Fri Dec 4



Night 2
Sat Dec 5



Night 3
Sun Dec 6



Night 4
Mon Dec 7



Night 5
Tue Dec 8



Night 6
Wed Dec 9



Night 7
Thu Dec 10



Night 8
Fri Dec 11

HALACHA NOTES

When: at nightfall (tzeit hakochavim), per Rav Ovadia Yosef. The lights should burn at least half an hour after that. *Yalkut Yosef, Hilchot Chanukah*

Motzei Shabbat (Dec 5): light Hanukkah candles at home first, then make Havdalah (per Shulchan Aruch). Rabbi to confirm. *SA OC 681:2*

Times: Local times: hebcal.com or chabad.org/candlelighting. Miami Shabbat candle-lighting (hebcal): 5:11 pm on Dec 4, 5:12 pm on Dec 11. Fort Lauderdale: 5:10 pm and 5:11 pm.

Friday (Dec 4 and Dec 11): light Hanukkah candles before Shabbat candles and before Shabbat begins, with enough oil or long candles to burn until half an hour after nightfall. *Shulchan Aruch OC 679*

Who lights: in the Sephardic custom the head of the house lights and blesses for everyone; some have each person light. Rabbi to confirm. *Yalkut Yosef*

HANEIROT HALALU (AFTER LIGHTING)

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אָנוּ מַדְלִיקִין עַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַנִּפִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלָאוֹת, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ עַל יְדֵי כֹּהֲנֶיךָ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים. וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יְמֵי חֲנֻכָּה הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם, וְאֵין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם אֶלָּא לִרְאוֹתָם בִּלְבָד, כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתֶךָ.

We kindle these lights for the salvations, the miracles and the wonders which You performed for our ancestors through Your holy priests. During all eight days of Hanukkah these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to make ordinary use of them, only to look at them, in order to give thanks and praise to Your great Name for Your miracles, Your wonders and Your salvations.

MA'OZ TZUR (FIRST STANZA TRANSLATED; FULL TRANSLATION ON THE WEBSITE)

מָעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי, לְךָ נָאֶה לְשַׁבֵּחַ. תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי, וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נְזַבֵּחַ.
לְעֵת תָּכִין מַטְבֵּחַ, מִצָּר הַמְנַבֵּחַ. אָז אֶגְמוֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר, חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

Rock of my salvation, to You it is fitting to give praise. Restore my house of prayer, and there we will bring thanksgiving. When You have prepared the slaughter of the barking foe, then I shall complete, with a song of psalm, the dedication of the altar.

רָעוֹת שָׂבְעָה נַפְשִׁי, בְּיָגוֹן כֹּחִי כִּלָּה. חַיַּי מֵרְרוּ בְקֹשִׁי, בְּשִׁעְבּוּד מַלְכוּת עֶגְלָה.
וּבְיָדוֹ הַגְּדוֹלָה, הוֹצִיא אֶת הַסְּגֻלָּה. חֵיל פַּרְעֹה וְכָל זַרְעוֹ, יָרְדוּ כְּאֶבֶן בִּמְצוּלָה.

דְּבִיר קָדְשׁוֹ הֱבִיאַנִי, וְגַם שָׁם לֹא שָׁקַטְתִּי. וּבָא נוֹגֵשׂ וְהִגְלַנִי, כִּי זָרִים עָבַדְתִּי.
וְיֵין רַעַל מָסַכְתִּי, כִּמְעַט שָׁעָבַרְתִּי. קֵץ בָּבֶל, זֶרֻבָּבֶל, לְקֵץ שִׁבְעִים נוֹשַׁעְתִּי.

כְּרוֹת קוֹמַת בְּרוֹשׁ בְּקֵשׁ אֲנָגִי בֶּן הַמְּדָתָא, וְנִהְיְתָה לוֹ לְפַח וּלְמוֹקֵשׁ, וְנַאֲוָתוֹ נִשְׁבָּתָה. רֹאשׁ יְמִינִי נִשֵּׂאתָ, וְאוֹיֵב שְׁמוֹ מָחִיתָ.
רֹב בָּנָיו וְקִנְיָנָיו עַל הָעֵץ תָּלִיתָ.

יְוָנִים נִקְבְּצוּ עָלַי אֲזַי בִּימֵי חַשְׁמַנִּים, וּפָרְצוּ חוֹמוֹת מִגְדָּלַי וְטִמְּאוּ כָּל הַשְּׁמָנִים.
וּמִנּוֹתַר קַנְקַנִּים נַעֲשָׂה נֵס לַשּׁוֹשַׁנִּים.
בְּנֵי בִינָה, יְמֵי שְׁמוֹנָה, קָבְעוּ שִׁיר וּרְנָנִים.

חֻשַּׁי זְרוֹעַ קָדְשָׁהּ, וְקָרֵב קֵץ הַיְשׁוּעָה. נְקֹם נִקְמַת עֲבָדֶיךָ מֵאֻמָּה הָרְשָׁעָה.
כִּי אָרְכָה לָנוּ הַיְשׁוּעָה, וְאֵין קֵץ לִימֵי הָרָעָה. דְּחֵה אֲדֹמוֹן, בְּצֵל צַלְמוֹן, הָקֵם לָנוּ רוֹעִים שִׁבְעָה.

PSALM 91: YOSHEV B'SETER ELYON

1 יֹשֵׁב בְּסֵתֶר עֶלְיוֹן בְּצֵל שַׁדַּי יִתְלוֹנָן: 2 אֹמַר לַיהוָה מַחְסִי
וּמְצוּדָתִי אֱלֹהַי אֶבְטַח־בּוֹ: 3 כִּי הוּא יַצִּילְךָ מִפַּח יָקוּשׁ מִדֶּבֶר הַוּוֹת:
4 בְּאֶבְרָתוֹ יָסֶךְ לָךְ וְתַחַת־כְּנָפָיו תֶּחְסֶה צִנָּה וְסֹחֵרָה אֲמִתּוֹ: 5 לֹא־
תִירָא מִפַּחַד לָיְלָה מֵחֵץ יָעוּף יוֹמָם: 6 מִדֶּבֶר בָּאֹפֶל יַהֲלֹךְ מִקֶּטֶב
יָשׁוּד צָהֳרָיִם: 7 יִפֹּל מִצִּדְּךָ אֶלֶף וּרְבָבָה מִימִינֶךָ אֵלֶיךָ לֹא יִגָּשׁ: 8
רַק בְּעֵינֶיךָ תַבִּיט וְשִׁלֻּמַת רְשָׁעִים תִּרְאֶה: 9 כִּי־אַתָּה יְהוָה מַחְסִי
עֶלְיוֹן שַׂמְתָּ מְעוֹנֶךָ: 10 לֹא־תְאֻנֶּה אֵלֶיךָ רָעָה וְנֶגַע לֹא־יִקְרַב בְּאָהֳלֶךָ:
11 כִּי מַלְאָכָיו יְצַוֶּה־לָּךְ לִשְׁמָרְךָ בְּכָל־דְּרָכֶיךָ: 12 עַל־כַּפַּיִם יִשָּׂאוּנְךָ
פֶּן־תִּגֹּף בָּאֶבֶן רַגְלֶךָ: 13 עַל־שַׁחַל וָפֶתֶן תִּדְרֹךְ תִּרְמֹס כְּפִיר וְתַנִּין:
14 כִּי בִי חָשַׁק וַאֲפַלְּטֵהוּ אֲשַׂגְּבֵהוּ כִּי־יָדַע שְׁמִי: 15 יִקְרָאֵנִי וְאֶעֱנֵהוּ
עִמּוֹ־אָנֹכִי בְצָרָה אֲחַלְּצֵהוּ וַאֲכַבְּדֵהוּ: 16 אֹרֶךְ יָמִים אַשְׂבִּיעֵהוּ
וְאַרְאֵהוּ בִּישׁוּעָתִי:

1 O thou that dwellest in the covert of the Most High, And abidest in the shadow of the Almighty; 2 I will say of the LORD, who is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust, 3 That He will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, And from the noisome pestilence. 4 He will cover thee with His pinions, And under His wings shalt thou take refuge; His truth is a shield and a buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Of the pestilence that walketh in darkness, Nor of the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at Thy side, And ten thousand at Thy right hand; It shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, And see the recompense of the wicked. 9 For thou hast made the LORD who is my refuge, Even the Most High, thy habitation. 10 There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent. 11 For He will give His angels charge over thee, To keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee upon their hands, Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and asp; The young lion and the serpent shalt thou trample under feet. 14 'Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he hath known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him, and bring him to honour. 16 With long life will I satisfy him, And make Him to behold My salvation.'

Hebrew: Miqra according to the Masorah (Sefaria.org, CC-BY-SA), cantillation omitted. English: JPS 1917 (public domain).

Custom: after lighting, say Psalm 91 ("Yoshev b'seter Elyon") seven times, then stand before the Hanukkah candles and make your personal requests.

1. Light the candles and bless as usual. Say the psalm from a siddur or by heart, by other light, not by the light of the candles ("we may not use them").
2. Say Psalm 91 from beginning to end, seven times, calmly and with focus. You may count on your fingers.
3. Then stand before the candles and ask quietly, in your own words: children, livelihood, health, peace at home, whatever is in your heart.
4. Finish with thanks to Hashem for the miracles and for the good you already have.

The personal prayer is a custom and a source of strength, not a guarantee of any result. Say it sincerely, trusting that Hashem hears prayer.

Hanukkah Segulot (customs only, no promises of results)

For children

Be careful with the candle-lighting: "One who is regular with the lamp will have children who are Torah scholars." Pray by the candles for your children.
Shabbat 23b

Include the children in the lighting and the singing, and stand with them for five minutes, eyes closed, giving thanks as if it already happened.
Custom; the Rabbi, Hanukkah lessons

For livelihood

Give more tzedakah during Hanukkah, especially before lighting, and add an act of giving or kindness to your request.
Custom; the Rabbi; on tzedakah: Proverbs 10:2

Light with a beautiful menorah and olive oil, and avoid lashon hara (gossip) while the lights are burning.
Custom; the Rabbi; hiddur: Shabbat 23b

For health

Say "Mizmor Shir Chanukat HaBayit" (it includes "and You healed me," Psalm 30:3) and pray for the sick by name.
Custom

Say Psalm 91, the "song against mishaps", as it is said at night and with the bedtime Shema.
Shevuot 15b; custom