The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, December 1 through 9

Hanukkah starts on the Hebrew calendar date of 25 Kislev, and lasts for eight days. The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, began at sunset, Wednesday, December 1, and ends on Thursday, December 9 (25 Kislev - 2 Tevet).

The Festival of Lights is a very special time of year for the Jewish community. It is when those of the Jewish faith remember two great events in the history of their people, the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple.

“In the year 165 BC., the Jews were under Syrian persecution that was led by Antiochus Epiphanes. Thinking to make a mockery of the Jews religion, Antiochus Epiphanes offered a sow on the altar, thus desecrating the temple. Judas Maccabaeus would take no more. He and his followers, called Maccabees, fought back and succeeded in crushing the Syrian invaders and reestablishing Jewish worship. (This freedom was precious, though short-lived, with the Roman invasion just around the corner.) A miracle is said to have occurred during the re-dedication of the temple. Though the lamps were to remain lit for eight days, there was only enough of the specially prepared oil for one day. Yet the lamps burned on for eight days--the miracle of Hanukkah.”

The Jewish Holy Days a Short Course for Christians By Frank Eiklor

Please join the Saint Leo community in wishing our Jewish brothers and sisters a blessed Hanukkah.

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