Hanukkah Blessings

Facing the menorah, place the first candle on your right and each night add candles to the left. Light the shamash (the single candle that is set apart).

Recite the following blessings:

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadleek ner shel hanukkah. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world, who makes us holy with mitzvot, and commands us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam she-asah nisim la-avoteinu ba-yameem ha-em ba-zman ha-zeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world, who did wondrous things for our people long ago at this time of year.

On the first night add this blessing:

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha-olam sheheheyanu v'kiyemnu v'higiyanu la-zman ha-zeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the world, who has given us life, sustained us, and brought us to this season of joy.

Using the shamash, light the candles from left to right. We light the candle for the new night first. Now, sing Hanukkah songs, eat latkes and play dreidel. Enjoy the candlelight! Try not to do any work while they are burning. Take the opportunity to share stories about miracles and heroes from the past. Discuss the ways we can bring about miracles and acts of heroism in our times. On Friday night, light the Hanukkah candles FIRST and then light the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night, say Havdalah first, then light the Hanukkah candles.