

Hanukkah means dedication.

Hanukkah lasts eight days, commemorating the celebrations marking purification and rededication of the holy temple and a miracle recorded in the traditions.

According to Jewish tradition the holiday was instituted by Judah Maccabee. When the Maccabees looked for holy oil to light the candelabrum, the oil in the flask was only enough for one day, but lasted for eight days.

Hanukkah is known as the holiday of lights and is marked as a holiday of heroism for the 167 BCE Jews revolt against the Greek Seleucid regime.

Source: Schenectady JCC/jewish holidays