

feast of lights

hanukkah, the jewish festival of religious freedom, will be celebrated this year from sundown, sunday night, december twenty-third, to sundown, monday night, december thirty-first. sometimes called the feast of lights, it is observed by lighting candles in synagogue and home, by exchanging gifts and by voicing prayers and hymns of thanksgiving and rejoicing over the help God gives those who fight for freedom.

"hanukkah" is a hebrew word meaning "dedication." the day commemorates the

rededication of the temple in jerusalem by the maccabees. it was the year 165 before the current era. the armies of mighty syria had overrun the little commonwealth of judea; and their commander, king antiochus epiphanes, ruled the land with an iron fist. he proceeded to exercise his sway even in the sphere of religion, ordering that a pagan altar be set up in the temple in jerusalem, and that sacrifices be offered to the greek idol zeus olympus. when the jews refused to worship at the heathen shrine,