Guidelines for Divine Liturgies at Basketball Tournaments

1. If the entire congregation (regulars + basketball crowd) cannot fit in your church, then you should either plan to do 2 simultaneous liturgies (e.g. one in Church, one in hall), or the one main liturgy in a larger space (like the parish hall or an auditorium).

   a) You should discuss this situation with the Chancellor well in advance (more than 2 weeks before the Tournament is set to begin).

   b) The celebration of simultaneous liturgies assumes that you will have (1) adequate assistance in the altar and (2) trained musicians leading the responses in both places.

2. Only in English: Epistle, Gospel, Homily, Creed, Lord's Prayer

3. There should be only one homily, which should be given immediately following the gospel.

4. Liturgy should begin no later than 9:30. If beginning at 9:30 will not allow for enough time at the end of the Liturgy for sportsmanship presentation, brunch, etc. to take place before the first game, then the services should be scheduled for an earlier time. It is not appropriate to truncate the Liturgy, "speed through it," etc.

5. There should be 3-4 clergymen distributing Holy Communion.

   a) The priest of the host parish should make these arrangements in advance, starting first with the clergy of the attending parishes and any clergy generally known to be available for substitution work.

   b) If the host parish requires an additional chalice or two to accommodate this arrangement, this should be coordinated with the concelebrating clergy.

   c) These arrangements should be made in a way that is respectful of each clergyman's opportunity to serve, needs, and in general the sense that the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ is not just another item "squeezed into the schedule."

6. The invitation to serve, and the communication of particulars related to service (arrival time, vestment color, who is preaching, timing of kairos prayers, bringing chalices, etc.) should be made directly by the proistamenos of the host parish - not by the assistant priest or any other proxy.