



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

To: The Beloved Clergy of the Direct Archdiocesan District

From: V. Rev. Fr. Chrysostom Panos, Chancellor of the D.A.D.

Date: October 24, 2017

Re: Christmas Liturgy Rubrics

Dear Fathers,

As always, I pray this communiqué finds you, your loved ones and your community doing well. No doubt, you are preparing your parish bulletins for December and I wanted to communicate with you regarding the celebration of Christmas which this year falls on a Monday. As has been the directive in the past within the Direct Archdiocesan District and in accordance with the rubrics outlined by the Typikon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, you are all asked to abide by the following guidelines:

I. The Royal Hours should be celebrated on **Friday morning, December 22nd**.

II. On **Sunday morning, December 24th**, EVERY parish, MUST celebrate the Divine Liturgy which is in line with the Sunday Before Nativity.

III. **Sunday evening, December 24th & Monday morning, December 25th**

Since you served Divine Liturgy Sunday morning it is vital that all services on Christmas Eve begin **AFTER** (6pm) sundown. For pastoral reasons since many of our faithful, following the prevailing practice here in the States, prefer to attend Christmas Eve services, you may choose to celebrate under the following conditions:

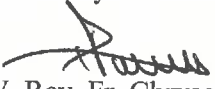
- **Liturgy on Christmas Eve Only-** You would celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on Sunday evening preceded by Vespers and Orthros and should conclude after midnight.
- **Liturgy on the Eve & Morning-** You may celebrate St. John Chrysostom in the evening preceded by orthros and conclude before midnight. On Christmas morning following the Orthros, you would celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great in its entirety.
- **Liturgy on Morning Only-** Following the Orthros, you would celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great in its entirety.

Communities with two or more priests- In addition to the above, if you choose the St. Basil Liturgy on the Eve it must take place following the chanting of Vespers and Orthros and must conclude after midnight. Should you choose a morning Liturgy as well, such a Liturgy (St. Basil) is to be celebrated by a second priest on a different Holy Table and Antimension than the one used for the earlier service.

If you require a second priest to meet the demands of your parish for these services you may request one through the Office of the Chancellor, dependent on availability.

I trust that all our clergy and parishes will abide by the above as is appropriate to such a directive and so as to avoid confusion within the District. I convey the blessings and paternal love of His Eminence and wish you all a very blessed and spiritually uplifting period of preparation for the great feast of Nativity.

Faithfully in the Service of Our Lord,


V. Rev. Fr. Chrysostom Panos