



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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To: The Beloved Clergy of the Direct Archdiocesan District

From: Bishop Andonios, Chancellor

Date: November 2, 2011

Re: Christmas Liturgy Rubrics

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My 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 Sunday. 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 follow the following guidelines:

1. The Royal Hours should be celebrated on **Friday morning, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**.
2. On **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**, the rubrics call for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, following the chanting of the Orthros. Ideally, this Liturgy is to be celebrated in the morning; however, 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 postpone the celebration until the evening hours. Whether you opt to celebrate it Saturday morning or evening, you are to celebrate the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (not St. Basil), preceded by the chanting of an Orthros (not Vespers).
3. On **Sunday morning, December 25<sup>th</sup>**, EVERY parish, following the Orthros, MUST celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great in its entirety.

Those communities with two or more priests may choose to celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on Saturday evening in addition to, NOT as a substitute for the Sunday morning Liturgy, but only under the following conditions: the Liturgy of the Forefast must have been celebrated on Saturday morning; the Liturgy of Christmas must take place following the chanting of Vespers and Orthros and must conclude after midnight. Should such a Liturgy be offered, the Sunday morning Liturgy is to be celebrated by a second priest on a different Holy Table and Antimension than the one used for the earlier service.

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 Christmas.