

ORDER FOR THE BLESSING OF AN ATHLETIC EVENT

This blessing is intended for those who participate in an athletic event. The blessing asks that God may protect the athletes from injury and that throughout the event they may show respect for one another.

The blessing may be given by a priest, deacon, or a lay minister.

ORDER OF BLESSING

All make the sign of the cross as the minister says:

- Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All reply:

- Now and for ever.

One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

- Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the second letter of Paul to Timothy (4:6-8):
- As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Or: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - We win a crown that is imperishable.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the athletes; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

- Strong and faithful God,
as we come together for this contest,
we ask you to bless these athletes.

Keep them safe from injury and harm,
instil in them respect for each other,
and reward them for their perseverance.

Lead us all to the rewards of your kingdom
where you live and reign for ever and ever.

- R. Amen.

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