

# ORDER OF THE BLESSING FOR AN ATHLETIC EVENT

## INTRODUCTION

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. This 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 forever.

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)

*I have fought the good fight.*

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; and finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

(or read 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,  
instill 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

All respond: **Amen.**

From "The Book of Blessings"