Receiving a “Letter of Membership in Good Standing” from St. Paul’s
For Godparents at Baptisms and Sponsors at Weddings

In the Greek Orthodox Church, it is required that the Godparent at a baptism or sponsor at a wedding – if not an active member of the parish in which that sacrament will be taking place – must request a letter certifying “membership in good standing” from their parish priest, which he will then send to the priest of the parish where the baptism or wedding will be celebrated.

Letters of Good Standing are required of ALL Greek Orthodox Christians in the Archdiocese of America when they are serving as sponsors at baptisms and/or weddings in parishes other than their home parish.

This is an ancient practice in the life of the Church.

What are the requirements for receiving a Letter of Membership in Good Standing?

1. One must be a practicing Orthodox Christian
   - Baptized as an Orthodox Christian or received into the Church through the sacrament of chrismation;
   - Participates in the sacramental life of the Church by attending Liturgy frequently and receiving the sacraments of Confession and Communion;
   - Lives according to the Orthodox Christian faith and applies the beliefs and principles of the Church to his/her life;

2. Able to be active in the sacramental life of the Church
   - If married, your marriage was celebrated and/or blessed in the Church;
   - If divorced, you must have received an ecclesiastical divorce decree – the recognition of your civil divorce – from the Church.

3. Parish Stewardship Commitment
   - Devotes his/her time, talents, and financial resources to the Church in order to support the ministries of St. Paul’s and share the new life given in Jesus Christ;
   - Pledging steward of St. Paul’s currently offering one’s financial support to the parish;

* Stewardship and worship are two aspects of the same coin.*

When requesting Letters of Membership in Good Standing, please do so in writing at least 3-4 weeks before the ceremony. Please email requests to carolyn@stpaulsirvine.org. Please include the following information:

- Type of Sacrament: Baptism or Wedding
- Date of Sacrament
- Location of Sacrament, Church Name and City/State
- Name of Bride/ Groom (if wedding) or Name of Family (if baptism)

The Letter will be prepared and emailed to the Church where the sacrament will be celebrated.