

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 ellen@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.