



# ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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## **Receiving a “Letter of Good Standing” from St. Nicholas Cathedral** *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 “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 Greek Orthodox 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, and:**

- Be Baptized as an Orthodox Christian or received into the Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation;
- Participate in the sacramental life of the Church by attending Liturgy frequently and receiving the sacraments of Confession and Communion;
- Live according to the Orthodox Christian faith and apply the tenets, 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:**

- Devote one’s time, talents, and financial resources (*including being a pledging steward of the Cathedral*) to the Church in order to support the ministries of the St. Nicholas Cathedral, tangibly sharing in the new life given in Jesus Christ;

***When requesting Letters of Membership in Good Standing, please do so in writing at least 3-4 weeks before the ceremony. Please e-mail requests to [church@stnickspgh.org](mailto:church@stnickspgh.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.