



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

Clarification for Parishioners asking for a Letter of Good financial & Ecclesiastical Standing

In the Orthodox Church, a **Letter of Good Financial and Ecclesiastical Standing** is a formal document that confirms a person's active and faithful participation in the life of the Church—both spiritually and materially. It's especially significant when someone wishes to serve as a **godparent at a baptism** or a **sponsor at a wedding**, particularly if the sacrament is taking place in a parish other than their own. *To ensure it can be provided, contact Fr. George at least 4-6 weeks in advance of your need to ensure he can provide it in advance of the sacrament you have scheduled at another parish.*

Here's what it typically signifies:

Ecclesiastical Standing

- The individual is a baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christian.
- They regularly attend Divine Liturgy and participate in the sacraments, especially Holy Communion and Confession.
- They live in accordance with Orthodox Christian teachings and moral life.
- They have no canonical impediments (e.g., being married outside the Church, unresolved ecclesiastical divorce).

Financial Standing

- The person is a **pledging steward** of their home parish.
- They contribute financially to the Church's ministries and have a stewardship commitment on file.
- This reflects not just financial support, but a commitment to the Church's mission and community life.

Why It Matters

- It ensures that sponsors or godparents are spiritually prepared and committed to guiding others in the faith.
- It maintains the integrity of the sacraments by ensuring participants are in full communion with the Church.
- It helps parishes uphold canonical order and pastoral care across jurisdictions.

This letter is the affirmation to the Priest where the baptism or wedding will occur that the Orthodox Church blends **spiritual accountability with community responsibility**.