

Nativity of Our Lord Orthodox Church
8911 Weems Road
Manassas, Virginia 20110

May 29th, 2015
The Feast of Theodosia the Virgin-Martyr of Tyre

To All Parishioners

Subject: “Member in Good Standing” Definition

The following is to provide clarification to the definition of a “member in good standing” at Nativity of Our Lord Orthodox Church.

A “member in good standing” is one who:

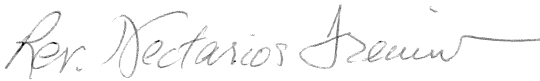
1. Annually pays their diocesan assessment;
2. Regularly participates in the stewardship of Nativity;
3. Regularly attends Divine Liturgy and receives the Holy Eucharist (“Holy Confession and God’s mercy combined enable us to be “worthy” in a human way to receive the Holy Eucharist”); and
4. Participates in the Holy Mystery of Repentance a minimum of once per year, preferably multiple times and frequently. Our diocesan prayer book states:
 - It is important that we come often and regularly to Holy Confession. Once sin re-enters our soul, we lose God’s grace and need Holy Confession to help restore it. Frequent confession helps us because:
 - It gives us a better awareness of our sins, helping us to make a better confession each time . . .
 - It is an excellent opportunity to work out the problems of our spiritual life . . .
 - It helps develop greater spiritual growth . . .
 - It inclines our soul away from sin . . .
 - ***It prepares us for frequent Communion*** . . . (see para 3 above; emphasis added)
 - It helps us to love the Sacrament of Holy Confession. We cannot love what we do not know.

Only members in good standing may lead parish committees and – when Nativity becomes a self-sustaining “regular parish” in the diocese – stand for and/or vote in parish elections. This latter requirement will be determined on the previous year’s member’s status, i.e., if an election is held in 2017, for a member to stand for office and or vote in a 2017 election he/she must have been in good standing in 2016. Additionally, if a member is voted into office during any given year, he/she must remain in good standing or may be removed by the Ruling Hierarchy at the

recommendation of the priest.

The foregoing is vital not only for the health of our Orthodox Christian parish, but also the Orthodox Christian spiritual health of each member. The foregoing requirements may only be changed by the ACROD Ruling Hierarchy.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Nectarios Trevino". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Rev. Nectarios Trevino

Cc: His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa