



Annapolis College Ministry

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*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that
I have commanded you..."
(St. Matthew 28:19-20).*

December 12, 2013

St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

Dear Friends of Annapolis Pan-Orthodox College Ministry (ACM):



Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him forever! I pray that this newsletter finds you healthy and well, full of the light of this holy season of preparation for the Nativity of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I have much to report to you on our shared ministry to the college students of Annapolis! I say "shared" because your prayers and financial support of this ministry are a vital and indispensable participation in this ministry that is helping form these young men and women in the knowledge and love of Christ at St. John's College and the U.S. Naval Academy.



1: Caroling in Annapolis



2: Nativity Paraklesis at St. John's College with some of those who participated



3: Akathist for St Nicholas at the U.S. Naval Academy

Because of your support, I can be on campus in the middle of the day to pray the Sixth Hour at the Naval Academy, hear confessions, meet for coffee with a midshipman or St. John's student in between classes, hold special services on campus—just as we did last week: the Nativity Paraklesis at St. John's, a beautiful preparatory service for the Advent season, and the strengthening Akathist to St. Nicholas on his Feast Day, 6 December, at the Naval Academy.

There is perhaps no greater time of formation in a person's life than those four years of college where boys and girls enter and leave young men and women. College is truly a 'testing ground': no parents to make them say their prayers and participate in the life of the Church, and college life is full of many temptations, as well as a growing secularism. ACM is here only by God's grace and your participation to encourage, challenge, provide Christian fellowship, teaching, discipleship, and the Sacramental life that these students and midshipmen need.



4: Patronal Feast—Fr. Gregory, Fr. Robert, Rdr. Zenon, St. John's alumnus, with our children

We started something new this Fall at St. John's College: our weekly "Applied Orthodox Theology Discussion." Every week a new topic of import for our Christian lives was discussed, the topics chosen by the participants. This was also a great opportunity to invite others from campus to join us. Our visitors included a Sikh student and others new to Orthodox Christianity.

I want to thank you for valuing the difference for Christ that this ministry is making in the lives of the Orthodox students at St. John's College and the U.S. Naval Academy. I also want to use this opportunity to ask for your prayers:



4: Akathist to St. Nicholas with Midshipmen at the St. Andrew Chapel, USNA

As you know, three years ago we started Holy Archangels Orthodox Mission to better minister to the students and midshipmen of Annapolis. While we meet just two miles from the Academy, we are looking for worship space for our church within walking distance of both campuses.

Such a move will greatly increase the opportunities for students and mids to participate in the life of the Church, invite friends to church, and give us the opportunity to do even more to minister the Gospel and Orthodox Faith in Christ to them.

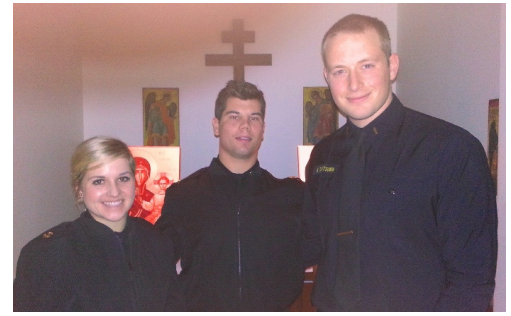
I want to ask you to please consider making a special gift to ACM this Christmas and share this newsletter with your brothers and sisters in Christ who have a heart for the Gospel and the Orthodox Faith, for evangelism, and, our college students who are facing many challenges in our culture today.

Donors come and go and so we're always in need of increased support as this full-time ministry is almost entirely funded by faithful Christians like you! This past year, I had to forego receiving any retirement contributions from ACM. It was a difficult decision we had to make, because as a 44-year-old Father of soon-to-be three children (our third child, a boy, is due March 9) I really need to be able to provide for the future needs of my family just as all of you do. But we needed to meet the rest of our budget so we made the sacrifice. Thank you for your faithful contributions to this ministry. For your material good gifts, may Christ God grant you His immaterial, heavenly, and eternal good gifts.

Christ God bless you and your family this holy season and grant you a beautiful and joyous celebration of our Lord's Nativity and Baptism to follow in the new year! May Christ show the light of His countenance upon you and grant you His peace and furtherance in all good things!

A most blessed Christmas/Nativity and Theophany!

In Christ's love and prayer,
Your fellow servant in Christ,
Fr. Robert Miclean +
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5: Sixth Hour Prayers with Midshipmen at the Orthodox Prayer Room, USNA



7: Caroling outreach in downtown Annapolis with St. John's students



8: "Applied Orthodox Theology" Discussion Group at St. John's College—Applying the Faith to our daily lives!



5: OCA Summit on Evangelism with His Beatitude. Fr. Robert was asked to attend because of the unique ministry work ACM is doing