

# ALBANY MARITIME MINISTRY

## “Christmas-at-Sea”2021

This Christmas many will be surrounded by family and friends, at home and in church. At the same time, Christmas for most seafarers will be in the middle of the ocean with neither family nor friends, home nor church. Albany Maritime Ministry's "Christmas-at-Sea" program places an assortment of small items in a wrapped package aboard ships for distribution among seafarers away at sea and far from home and loved ones on Christmas Day.

We're asking you to help gather a few gifts for our port volunteers to bring to the seafarers before their ships head for oceans far and wide over the Christmas holiday? Even though the crew is confined to their ships, we can deliver some Christmas joy to them.



The look of joy that sweeps over the seafarer's face upon receiving an unexpected Christmas gift from a stranger in a distant land is almost impossible to describe, but you can imagine! A small gesture, sure - but one that means so very much to men who sail the seas on long, lonely winter days and nights.

Here's how easy it is to help:

Find a shoebox, gather some items together, place them in the shoebox and wrap it. We will include a card and a Christmas message from the Seafarer's Center and "friends from NY Capital area".

Last year youth groups, scout troops, organizations and individuals, all got involved and helped share the joy and love of God's gift of the Christ with strangers visiting the Port of Albany. They helped gather and assemble 350 "Christmas-at-Sea" boxes.

A Dutch captain wrote from sea: "Amongst ourselves, in the middle of the ocean, during severe weather conditions, you really made us feel welcome and appreciated."

**Check our website for more information:** [AlbanyMM.us](http://AlbanyMM.us)

### Some items to include in a "Christmas-at-Sea" box:

- 1) Knit cap or gloves, work gloves, Warm socks, sweatshirt (They are not prepared for our northeast weather!)
- 2) Writing paper, envelopes, pencils, pens
- 3) Comb or brush
- 4) Book
- 5) Toiletries - razor, shaving cream, After Shave ,tooth brush/paste, Deodorant,
- 6) Something indigenous to: Albany, or NY (someone included maple sugar)
- 7) "AA"/"AAA" batteries
- 8) ear buds (easily found at the \$ store)
- 9) Puzzles, word search, New or gently used DVD's
- 10) NO CANDY, PLEASE

**PLEASE NOTE:** These items can be collected and donated during the year for our Hospitality Bags, which are brought to the ships when they are in Port.

***Boxes can be dropped off at St. Matthew/St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1500 Western Ave. Albany, NY (across from Stuyvesant Plaza). Please call ahead (518-464-2648) to make sure someone is there to accept the packages.***