



# Albany Maritime Ministry

Welcoming seafarers along the Hudson River in New York's Capital District

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A ministry of the Capital Area Council of Churches

## Fall/Winter News

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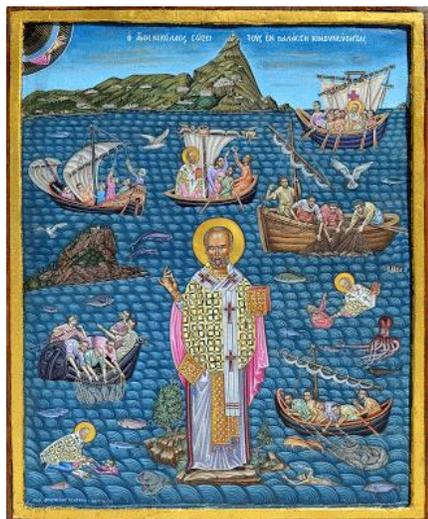
### Kuddos, Smitty!

Volunteer Bernard Smith (Smitty) was recently named "Volunteer of the Year" by the Capital District Chief Petty Officer's Association. He was awarded for service aboard the Destroyer Escort USS Slater, a museum ship that was active during World War II and is now docked in Albany. The award was given on October 13<sup>th</sup> at a ceremony commemorating the United States Navy's 242<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Smitty was recognized for years of cooking weekly for the volunteer corps and at numerous special events aboard ship. He is also a member of the ship's color guard. We laud Smitty as a vital member of our volunteer corps, as well.

### Christmas at Sea Shoebox Information

Christmas should be a time for family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Savior; yet for seafarers who are many miles away from home, it is often a time of great loneliness. We attempt to uplift their spirits by joining a worldwide campaign to distribute shoebox gifts to those who dock at our ports—and seafarers have often told us how much they appreciate them. Albany Maritime Ministry is grateful to you, who, like St. Nicholas, make these wonderful things happen.

For this year's shoebox donations, please:



Aristides Milakis "Saint Nicholas, the Patron Saint of Sailors" (icon on wood, 87x70 cm, 2017)

[www.aristidhmilaqi.blogspot.com](http://www.aristidhmilaqi.blogspot.com)

1. Gather an assortment of small items; for example: warm socks, work gloves, books, writing material, AA/AAA batteries, toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush & paste, skin protectant, lip balm, shaving equipment, comb) and Albany or NY souvenirs such as post cards or maple syrup.
2. Wrap your gifts in a small package such as a shoe box.
3. Bring them to the Seafarer Center Open House on December 3<sup>rd</sup> or contact us for other arrangements.
4. Provide us with your name and address so your gifts can be acknowledged. We will attach a Christmas message to the boxes, saying from "the Seafarer Center and friends from NY Capital area."

### Busy Volunteers Need More Help

Please consider joining our volunteer corps. We appreciate any time you can spare and will provide training.

*"May St. Nicholas hold the tiller!" ~ an old seafarer prayer.*

#### Highlights:

- Kuddos, Smitty!
- Christmas at Sea shoebox information
- Busy volunteers need more help
- Sidebar: Open House



### OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, December 3, 1-4pm**

Please join us for refreshment at the Seafarer Center. Bring a shoebox gift for seafarers, if you like, and meet our dynamic group of volunteers. Directions are on our website. Contact us with questions. We look forward to seeing you.

Scan this QR code to go to our website on your mobile phone.

