

Joy To The World! Christmas at Sea Season 2023





Norwegian Corvette, Masthead Christmas Tree, Liverpool 24 December 1942 (Source: https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205146818 © IWM A 13522 (IWM Non-Commercial Licence)

Our Christmas season joyfully began Tuesday before Thanksgiving and continued through Epiphany season delivering gift bags to crew members and dockside crew aboard or servicing vessels at the Port of Palm Beach. There are a lot of moving parts to our Christmas At Sea project which has doubled in size in three years.

In early October we held a Port of Palm Beach donation drive to add to our year-long collection of needed items for crew:



Ocean cargo seafarers work means months at sea with little or no access to more personal individual items needed as clothing, toiletries, writing and reading materials, cards and more. Our small staff assembles gifts and encloses Christmas cards for approximately 600 crew and dockside personnel. Our deliveries enable personal visits to learn about the lives we pray for and hope to enrich by our welcoming presence and hospitality. Some of our faith-based groups, The Episcopal Church of Bethesda By The Sea and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and The Greater West Palm Beach Women's Club, generously donated lovely handmade knitted watch caps and scarves and more!

















While underway with our Christmas at Sea deliveries, we celebrated our Blessing of the Fleet Holiday Boat Parade on December 2 2023. On a beautiful balmy starlit evening the clergy from The Episcopal Church of Bethesda By The Sea blessed approximately



65 boats in the parade, including our local United States Coast Guard vessel. Crew on these vessels welcomed our prayers!















We are very grateful for the generosity of our Port of Palm Beach, our Port community, our local churches and community for their support of our Port of Palm Beach Seafarers Center mission and goals. Christmas At Sea is one of our annual celebrations of the tireless invisible work of mariners on our inland waterways and worldwide oceans. We offer them a warm welcome on behalf of our Port of Palm Beach and an opportunity to rest, refresh and recreate while a visitor at our Port. Happy crews means happy ships!





