

CHRISTMAS AT SEA 2024



Tropical Shipping crews make long journeys to Canada to the Caribbean Island nations to South America and back again to their home port the Port of Palm Beach. During Christmas At Sea they joyfully prepared a Christmas banquet (see above) and gathered together to ask the Lord's blessing. They were especially grateful for beautiful handmade rosaries with prayer booklets (see below) by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.





Back on shore in Palm Beach parishioners at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda By The Sea started assembling Christmas At Sea gift bags of the seafarers donations received throughout the year. There were 270 gift bags assembled on one Sunday morning for Bethesda's Port Ministry. Our Rev. Tim Schenck and parishioners assembled GIFTS for crew....





...beautiful handmade knitted seafarers watch caps and scarves knitted by Bethesda parishioners were included in each gift bag.....



.... and beautiful handmade knitted seafarers watch caps and scarves lovingly knitted by Good Shepherd Episcopal Church parishioners were also included in Bethesda's gift bags.....



....and volunteers at our PPBSCenter assembled Christmas gift bags for delivery....





AND FINALLY....HAPPY DELIVERIES!

Our Christmas season joyfully began Tuesday before Thanksgiving and continued through Epiphany season delivering gift bags to ship crews and dockside crews at the Port of Palm Beach. There are a lot of moving parts to our Christmas At Sea project which has tripled in size the past four years.

In early September the Port of Palm Beach held a donation drive to add to our year-long collection of needed items for crew. Seafarers work months at sea with little or no access to more personal individual items needed as clothing, personal toiletries, writing and reading materials, cards and much more. Our small all-volunteer staff assembles gifts with needed personal toiletries, bible, rosaries, St Nickolas and St Christopher medals and more. Christmas cards for over 989 crew and additional dockside personnel were delivered with our gifts. Our deliveries included 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, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church of North Palm Beach, The Greater West Palm Beach Women's Club and the Jupiter First Church, generously donated lovely handmade knitted watch caps and scarves and much more!

We are sincerely grateful for all the love and support received from our caring donors who make our work possible for our worldwide "invisible" seafarers who work tirelessly to deliver ninety percent of everything we use, eat or wear.

