

Christmas-at-Sea

Would your congregation like to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their families for Christmas? Our port chaplains bring satchels filled with gifts to the ships they visit in the weeks prior to Christmas. Later, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, when the ship is in the middle of the ocean, the captain holds a holiday celebration and every crew member will open their satchels, each containing



One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size L-XL),
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or white gym,
One Casual Pullover T-Shirt (size M-L),
One Knit Winter Cap,
One Can of Nuts or Large Bar of Chocolate, and a
Christmas Card from you!

(You pick the colors, styles and brands you wish, but please no substitutions from the list. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew).

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, not just because of the beautiful gifts received, but because complete strangers ashore have taken the time to share the spirit of Christmas with these otherwise forgotten seafarers. It's awesome!

Your congregation may want to assemble complete Christmas-at-Sea satchels for an entire ship. Generally, a ship's crew consists of 25 seafarers. Of course, we're grateful for any number of satchels your congregation can fill. If it is more convenient, you can supply a quantity of just one or two of the gift items. There are sales on many of these gifts throughout the year, so you may want to get a jump start on purchasing them. Or you may write a check and have us purchase the items for you. Typically, a completely filled satchel costs about \$25.

Our port chaplains start to distribute the Christmas-at-Sea satchels after Thanksgiving, so we start collecting them as soon as your congregation is ready through December 15th. Call or email one of the following persons to order the number of satchels you want to fill or to receive further information. Remember to put a return address on your Christmas cards, because occasionally the ship captain or crew members will send you a personal note of appreciation, and you'll find these notes are just priceless.



Blessings to you for your outreach to seafarers.

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