



CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Gifts for our visiting Seafarers

For seafarers working this Christmas it can be a lonely time, as they are hundreds of miles from home. For many of them the shoebox or ditty bag* they receive while in **Point Comfort** will be their only gift during the holidays. More important than the contents of this gift is the welcome gesture of caring from people they have never met.

*Please email if you like to sew and need instructions for making ditty bags.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Rhonda Cummins
361-552-6140 (leave message)
stellamaris@olgulf.org (better)



During December, our Chaplains and ship visitors will take 20 to 25 gifts (depending on the size of the crew) to every vessel that enters the Port in Point Comfort. Some ship Captains distribute the gifts to their crews right away. Some put them under the ship's Christmas Tree, if there is one. Some hold them and place one outside each seafarer's cabin door on Christmas morning.

Want to help?

Start saving shoeboxes and collecting toiletries, playing cards, hotel soaps, postcards, new socks, pens & pencils, small games, hard candies, **and other items that you might appreciate on a long trip at sea.** These items can be placed in a standard shoe box, approx. 11" by 7" (no boot or children sizes) and gift wrapped. OR place items in a drawstring ditty bag* that is approximately 12" by 15". Most gifts are filled with an average of 10-12 different items taking care to ensure that gifts are of similar value.

Wrapping paper, tape, empty shoe boxes, ditty bags* and/or Individual items can also be donated for packaging by others. Monetary donations are also welcome. [Email for drop off locations.](#)

Suggestions of what to donate/include in Seafarer gifts:

Small size shampoo	Pair of white athletic socks
Small soap	T-shirt (med or large)
Shower gel	Knit cap
Deodorant	Scarf
Kleenex	Gloves
Q-tips	Picture postcards
Lip balm	Small sewing kit
Lotion	Note pads
Powder	Envelopes
Small shaving cream	Pencil or pen
Disposable razors	Pencil sharpener
Toothbrush	Playing cards
Toothpaste	Small games
Dental floss	Small package of nuts
Nail clippers	Small trail mix
Fingernail file	Chewing gum
Small Texas souvenir	Hard candy
Hand towel	Microwave popcorn
Wash Cloth	Hot Chocolate

A card with a personal note, although optional, is always most appreciated by the seafarers. Please avoid including items that will melt or break, and pack any batteries separately from the items they will power. As there are very few women onboard the ships, we would request that the gifts be packed for male seafarers.