

Holy Ghost Orthodox Church 714 Westmoreland Avenue PO Box 3 Slickville, PA 15684-0003

www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor 23 Station Street Carnegie, PA 15106-3014 [412] 279-5640 home [412] 956-6626 cell

rpopichak@alumni.cmu.edu

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yurij, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick Seilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father Steve Hutnick [COVID-19], Father Victor Wronskyj [COVID-19], Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Fr. Volodymyr Muzychka [COVID-19], Diakonissa Mary Ann Cherkas, Father Harry Linsinbigler [COVID-19], Archimandrite Raphael [COVID-19], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciow, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young,

Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaugenhaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck-vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy,

Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Dolores Wachnowsky, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Dollie Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [newborn], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin, on life support after a car accident], and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our August babies: John Brunermer on the 1st, Janet Brunermer on the 12th, Loretta Sheliga on the 18th, and Nicholas Behun on the 29th. May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! M'nohaya Lita! God Bless them and their families

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is <u>NOTHING</u> to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be SAFE!!! God Bless!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and ALL American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER-PRAYERS ARE <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, August 01

OBEDNITZA-UPSTAIRS

10:30 AM

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS; VENERABLE MACRINA-SISTER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT; VENERABLE DIUIS-ABBOT OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE PAISIUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 5

Romans 12:6-14; Galatians 5:22-6:2; Hebrews 13:7-16 Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 6:17-23; John 17:1-13

Litany in Blessed Memory of Father Peter Natishan, Samuel Mrvos, Matushka Catherine Pyrch, David Yenni, Denise Lawrence, Rudy Obradovich, Michael Horvath, John Sheliga, Anne Harte, Mildred Kitch, Agnes Rossi, Michael Cherepko, Mary Vigani, & Evelyn Gazella—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, August 08

OBEDNITZA-UPSTAIRS

10:30 AM

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HIEROMARTYRS HERMOLAUS, HERMIPPUS, & HERMOCRATES OF NICOMEDIA; MARTYR PARASCEVE OF ROME; VENERABLE MOSES THE HUNGARIAN OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

Tone 6 Romans 15:1-7 Matthew 9:27-35

SUNDAY, August 15

OBEDNITZA-UPSTAIRS

10:30 AM

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN AND RIGHTEOUS NICODEMUS, GARNALIEL, & ABIBIUS; HIEROMARTYR STEPHEN-POPE OF ROME

Tone 7 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 14:14-22

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 01 AUGUST 2021

6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS; VENERABLE MACRINA-SISTER OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT; VENERABLE DIUIS-ABBOT OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE PAISIUS OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA

TROPARION—TONE 5

Let the faithful praise and worship the Word, Coeternal with the Father and the Spirit; Born for our salvation from the Virgin; For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, To endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 5

Thou didst descend into Hell, O my Savior, Shattering its gates as almighty; Resurrecting the dead as Creator, And destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

PROKEIMENON-TONE 5

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

READER: Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us and preserve us...

PEOPLE: From this generation forever.

<u>ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 5</u>

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever, and my truth will be prepared in the heavens.



Jawn, pronounced \'jän\, is the Philadelphia all-purpose noun.

It can refer to a single thing, or a collection or class of things, or a situation, or a person.

In this week's *Jawn* we look at a word which bears many definitions and many contexts: resiliency.

Resiliency is a word which is still being defined on a country by country, state by state, community by community basis, but what link do all these jurisdictions share? What type of fabric binds them all together? What makes the United States the same as Sri Lanka, or Philadelphia the same as San Francisco? The answer may be the presence of haves and have- nots, and in-between, the have-mores and the have-less.

FEMA Region 3 is made up of three states, two Commonwealths, and a District. Specifically, within our region, we support the states of Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia, the Commonwealths of Virginia and Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. And while the jurisdictional designation makes little difference to our overall mission, the governmental hodgepodge in our region gives us pause when we look at each individually. This is not a bad thing, this is a good thing, because it means the recognition of differences within the thousands of municipalities embedded within the region.

Disaster response and disaster recovery is not a one-size-fits-all approach. It involves nuance and flexibility. It involves looking at a state and recognizing that what works in Danville may not work in Alexandria. As just one example of many, this theory was tested in Maryland while FEMA was supporting a mobile vaccination mission in the hardest to reach areas along the Eastern Shore and the Western hills and mountains. For sure, the missions in Garrett and Charles County were much different than the missions we supported everywhere else in the state. Not good, not bad. Different. Nuanced.

Where this land of nuance becomes more difficult to navigate is in the preparedness phase. The dime definition of preparedness, at least in our world, is doing all that we can to prepare our citizens for a disaster. To be able to ride it out and recover from it. Response and recovery, for preparedness purposes, *must* be in tandem. When a disaster hits, it's nice to think that surviving it is a fine benchmark. For some disasters, that's

about all you can do. For most disasters, in our book, that is simply an unacceptably basic outcome.

When you return home after a hurricane or wildfire, with no home or job, no vehicle, no money in savings, a tough-to-navigate insurance and assistance processes, and perhaps dealing with the loss of someone or something you love, it's easy to say "those are just things" but deep down inside, some of those things *are* the reason one lives. At the very least, it sure makes living a heck of a lot easier.

In our experience, preparedness in America is a bit like a 40-yard dash: You have some that have finished the race, you have some that are halfway there, and you have some who are at the starting line. While we serve all, what keeps many of us in the preparedness world up at night is this thought: there are families and individuals who can't even sign up to run the race.

It is not hyperbolic to think that there are millions of Americans who couldn't begin to prepare, honestly and earnestly prepare in a way deemed correct, to any degree of success. And it is not outside the realm of possibility to believe that it may take time and luck, and lots of it, to get to the point of even considering preparedness. There are undeniable root causes to all of this: poverty, access, education, transportation, climate, and demographics to name a few.

How do we fix it?

A good start means coming back to one word: nuance. The resignation of the fact that you can't replace a scalpel with an axe. You can't blanket policy or blanket message throughout a nation or a state, we're too big, too diverse. It means a lot of hard work, like strengthening partnerships and finding new ones. It means a lot of time imagining and reimagining what preparedness can, not should, look like and adjusting your sails to get to that point.

It means emergency management, public safety, and our partners venturing into uncharted waters and working with groups and organizations that look to promote, fix, and diversify our communities. Groups that work on the front lines of alleviating poverty, educating youth and adults, are fighting to mitigate a changed climate, and are taking, as we should, a holistic view of community preparedness.

Here's the hard part, and by this point you may be asking yourself, what's nuanced about expanding the reach of emergency management and public safety into non-traditional avenues? The hard part is that, for it to work systemically, that strategy must be implemented across every community in America. We must build ourselves up before we can truly respond. Instead of imagining what a proper recovery looks like that just involves putting pieces back together, we can look at what is involved in

making a person whole again. We must prepare as one community and rise as one community because there is little solace in your island popping its head above water as the world floods around you.

It sounds hard. I'm game. Let's keep working.

John DiSpaldo, Teracore, Federal Emergency Management Agency- Region III



In Communion 07-13/20-2021

Today we celebrate Saint Dimitry, a priest who worked with Mother Maria to save Jews from the Nazis.

Saint Dimitry signed many false baptismal certificates in order to save people from the Nazis, while also baptizing many who also sought to convert. But he never baptized anyone who didn't want it. He told Mother Maria why he signed the false certificates saying, "I think the good Christ would give me that paper if I were in their place. So I must do it."

Eventually, a German officer named Hoffman collected a large amount of evidence on how Jews had been helped by Mother Maria and Fr. Dimitry. He was prepared to question the priest for a long time, and was astonished when Fr. Dimitry told him frankly about everything he had done.

Hoffman said curtly, "And if we release you, will you promise never again to aid Jews?"

Dimitry answered, "I can say no such thing. I am a Christian, and must act as I must."

Hoffman stared at him in disbelief for a moment, and then struck Dimitry across his face. "Jew lover!" he screamed. "How dare you talk of those pigs as being a Christian duty!"

The frail Dimitry recovered his balance. Staying calm, he raised the Cross from his cassock and faced Hoffman with it.

"Do you know this Jew?" he said quietly.

The blow he received knocked him to the floor.

Shortly thereafter, Fr. Dimitry was taken to a concentration camp where he died

Patience

Luke 21:19- In your patience possess ye your souls. (KJV)

Patience develops when confidence, faith and trust are placed in the Lord God. Having firm faith in God's goodness and mercy is related to developing patience. Serious believers turn to the Lord seeking patience in addressing life's challenges. Difficulties will arise in life requiring patience in seeking God-pleasing solutions. The soul's protection, care and nourishment require the exercise of great patience.

Romans 15:4- For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (KJV)

Patience leads serious believers along the pathways of life to the Heavenly Kingdom. Eternal life becomes the possibility that turns into reality through practicing patience. Faithfulness to the Lord patiently and earnestly maintained leads to the desired results. God does not disappoint serious believers seeking wisdom and hope in the Scriptures. Believers address the soul's hunger through immersing the self in the Holy Scriptures.

2 Corinthians 6:4-But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, (KJV)

Believers taking guidance from the Lord travel the narrow path to the Kingdom. Life's trials and tribulations are best addressed with patience coming from the Lord. Believers do not overcome trials and temptations alone but only with the Lord's help. The Lord is due proper and prompt gratitude when patience yields desired results. Patience develops within the believer serious about doing the will of the Lord God.

Colossians 1:11-Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; (KJV)

Joy results when patience is faithfully practiced in ways pleasing to the Lord God. The Lord God guides the attentive believer in patiently facing life's difficulties. Believers experiencing longsuffering have hope firmly anchored in the Lord's mercy. The Lord strengthens serious believers patiently desiring to be faithfully obedient. Depression and despair are overcome when believers follow the Lord with patience.

1 Thessalonians 1:3-Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; (KJV)

Hope and patience are firmly intertwined in the life of the serious believer in Christ. The serious believer's faith in Jesus Christ remains inseparably linked with hope. Experience in the life in Christ validates the practice of patience as always desired. Impatience leads to hasty actions which can create more problems than already exist. Love the Lord God with great patience and come to know the Lord through patience.

Venerable Thomas of Mt. Maleon. Holy Great Martyr Kyriaki. July 7/20, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Fr Dave Urban, Tue, Jul 20, 4:31 PM Glory be to Jesus Christ!

"Having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ... But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life." (Romans 6:18,22)

18: slaves of righteousness

Now eliminate opportunities to sin

"This is according to the teaching and example of Christ, who has taught us to get rid not only of sins but also for opportunities of sin." (Pelagius)

22: Holiness now – eternal life in the future Passing from death to life

"If when we receive the forgiveness of sins we become imitators of good deeds, we shall acquire holiness and we shall obtain eternal life at the end, for we shall pass from death, which Paul said was the end, to life, which is without end." (Ambrostaster)



Jawn, pronounced $\$ 'jän $\$, is the Philadelphia all-purpose noun. It can refer to a single thing, or a collection or class of things, or a situation, or a person.

Lucky Charms can make you jump higher.

You see, my uncle had five kids and every morning, they would eat a bowl of Lucky Charms. Of the five kids, three of them became great athletes. One played basketball, another football, and the other, field

hockey. They were good, not gifted, but pretty good. Really, it's a marvel. Think about it, in a family of five, all the children ate Lucky Charms and most of them were pretty good athletes.

It must be the Lucky Charms cereal, right? I think I'll post my findings on social media, tell my friends. I might start a Facebook group, give it a catchy name (something like, "Lucky Charms Make You Jump Higher"). Get some followers. Hope an influencer sees my group, or the catchy meme I made. Share it with their followers, their friends, their neighbors, their congregation, the other little league coaches. I wonder if I'll get on TV?

After all, there's a kernel of truth to the theory. You must put milk in cereal. Milk contains vitamins. Other than the marshmallows, Lucky Charms contains bits of grainy goodness. Must be the sugar in the cereal, too. That can give you energy. There's no study to reference whether this is true, but it's easy to draw your own conclusions.

I think I'll start that Facebook group "Lucky Charms Make You Jump Higher," I've had parents all over the world asking each other whether it's true. Luckily, we have a few folks from Big Cereal in our group to clear the air. They assure us that this most certainly might be true and that we certainly need more information to clear up this maybe certain truth. It the meantime, though, you should only be eating Lucky Charms because of its proven ability to make you jump higher.

"Lucky" for us, you don't even need to eat the cereal yourself! There's been reports that even if you don't eat Lucky Charms, but you're around people that do, that you can jump higher too! We think it's tied to the smell of Lucky Charms, meaning, so long as you're in the same room and you can inject those sweet marshmallowy vapors, you can also reap the benefits. I wonder if other cereals with marshmallows in them also can make you jump higher?

One day, everything will break our way. Influencers and VIP's with way more reach than me will pick up the story. Schools will start *only* serving Lucky Charms. Cereals will start putting marshmallows in all their mixtures. Have you ever tasted Honey Nut Marshmallows? Or Oat Branmallows? The story will spread across the world! Communities in other countries, desperate to be fit and nimble, will feed their children marshmallows at every meal.

The story will be all over the news. Commentators and hosts alike will talk about the phenomenon. It'll be in different languages and in different cities across the globe. They'll ask about it at press briefings. They'll write about it in press releases. They'll even ask the president about it. It'll be incredible. All this attention, and all it took was a theory about Lucky Charms and my uncle's kids jumping higher (most, not all of them).

Then it'll all go away.

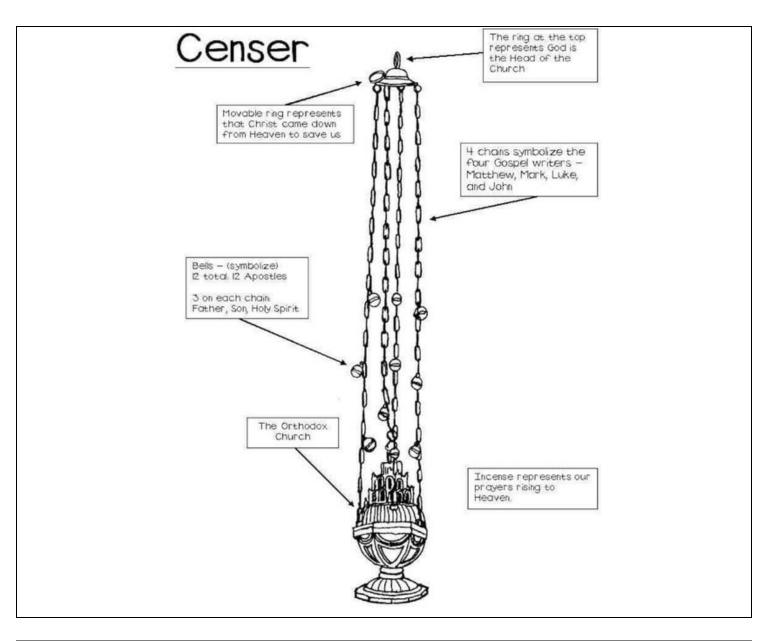
People will ask what the harm was. Despite the rise in obesity in some communities because of only eating marshmallows, and the rotten teeth in children, and that one guy who tried to jump over a mailbox and ended up hurting himself instead, I'll tell them there was no harm. Despite a complete lack of science or reason, or laboratory studies, or data....it still *might* be true.

Here's the truth, though. Most people are sick of eating marshmallows, and yet, some will continue to stuff their face.

This is the path misinformation takes. What starts as a kernel of truth, an agenda, and the desire for attention can eventually cause far-reaching effects in our society and our greater mission of keeping people safe. And, if left untamed, misinformation and rumor can cause irreparable harm. Due to the ability of information and misinformation to spread rapidly throughout our interconnected world, it is quickly becoming one of the biggest threats to safety in our time. Our best weapon against it is honesty, rapid response, perseverance, and a bit of luck that the better angels of those spreading it will take over.

John DiSpaldo, Teracore, Federal Emergency Management Agency- Region III

I remember our teacher in the history of philosophy who claimed that God punished people with labor. He was completely shocked to learn from my Bible that Adam and Eve were called to "cultivate and preserve paradise" before the Fall. Fr. Stefan Domustchi





Ancient icon of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker