



Part 1: Incense says, “God, YOU are awesome!”

- The incense we use is a blend of fragrant plant parts (tree sap, flowers, seeds, etc.).
- We use incense in our prayers (as humans have done for thousands of years) because it **smells good**, and we want to smell good for God, and the smoke goes **UP**, in the (figurative) direction of God in heaven.
- What does incense *mean*?
When we incense something, we are saying, “**God is here and we praise Him.**”



- On a special day, we might use incense in Mass at these times:
 - Leading the **Procession IN**
 - At the **Gospel**
 - At the **Preparation of the Gifts**
 - At the **Consecration** twice (at the elevation of the Host and of the Precious Blood)
 - Leading the **Procession OUT**



- At a funeral, **one** server does BOTH the **Holy Water** job and the **Incense** job. Hence, that server’s job is called **Holy Water/Incense (HWI)**.



- Our usual custom at St. Matt’s is to use incense **twice** at funerals:
 - At the **Preparation of the Gifts**
 - At the **Final Commendation** (at the end)



- Sometimes we venerate the Holy Eucharist **OUTSIDE OF MASS**, such as:
 - A Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction
 - Forty Hours Devotions
 - Corpus Christi Procession



- All these special ceremonies involve Incense.

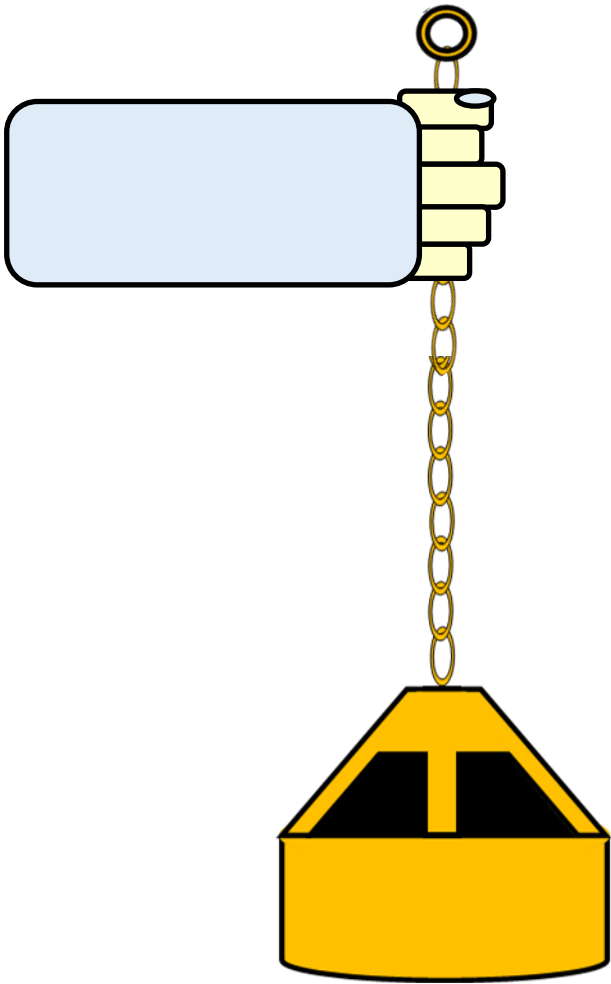
Part 2: How to hold the Thurible and Boat

--The incense burning thing on a swinging chain is the **Thurible**.

--The round metal box of incense with the spoon sticking out is the **Boat**.

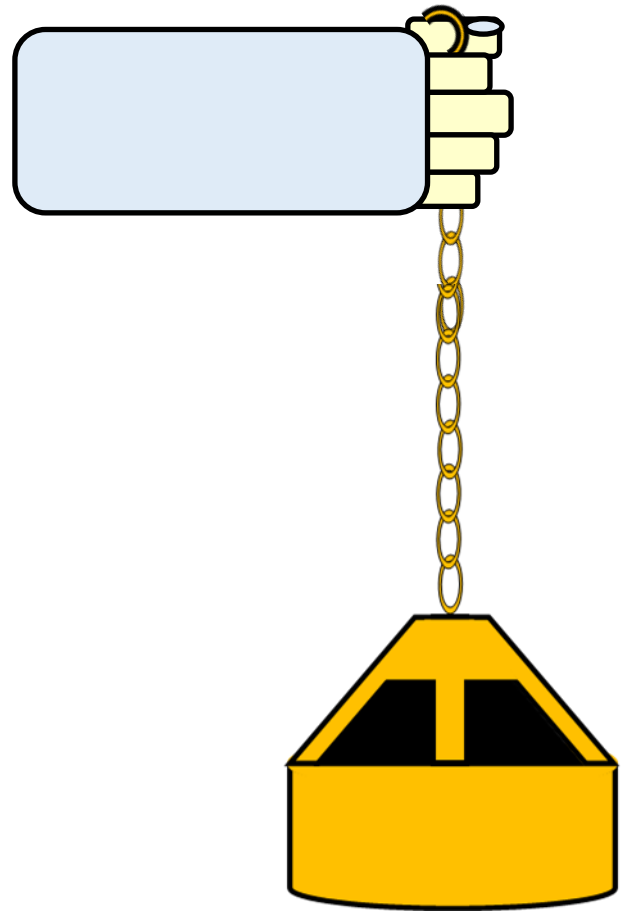
FIRST

Grip the chain **firmly**,
leaving a little **slack**
between the ring
and your thumb.



THEN

Put your **thumb**
through the ring.
Your gripping fingers
hold the weight,
NOT your thumb!



When holding the Thurible, keep it swinging a little bit
so it doesn't burn you.

THEN

Pick up the **Boat**
with your free hand.



Part 3: How to hold the Thurible UP for the Celebrant to impose Incense

FIRST

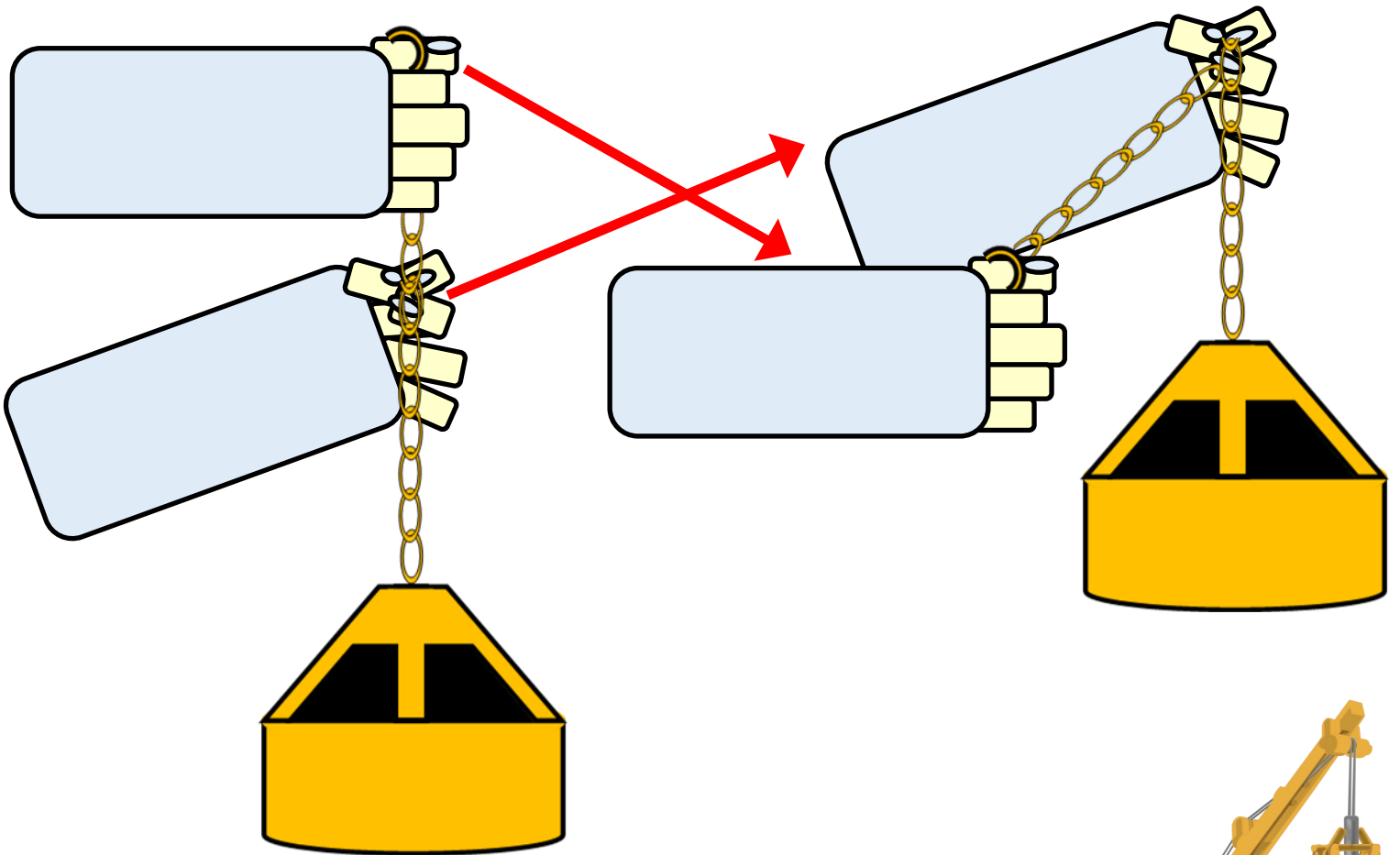
Hand the **Boat** to the Celebrant.



You are already gripping the end of the chain with one hand.
Now grip the **middle of the chain** with your other hand.

THEN

Lower the end of the chain and **raise** the middle of the chain.

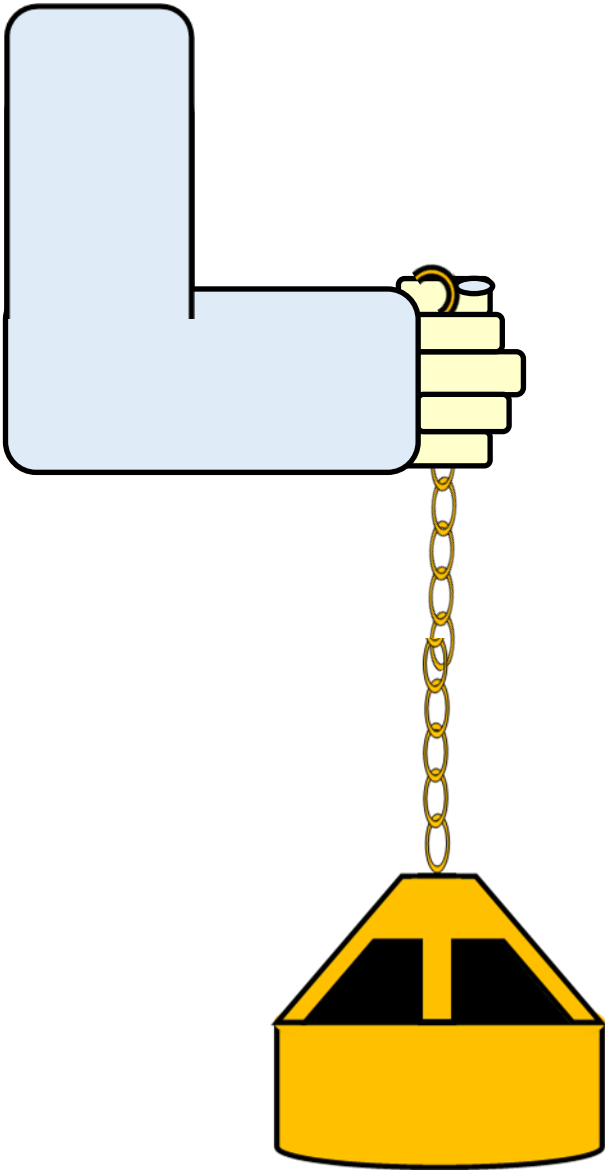


It works just like a crane!



Part 4: How to walk with and swing the Thurible

Hold the Thurible out **in front** of you. Your forearm is basically **level**.



Swing the Thurible from your **side** to way out **in front** of you.

DON'T
swing the Thurible
behind you !!!

Thrust your forearm straight out and back again.

You're basically moving your elbow to and from your ribcage.

