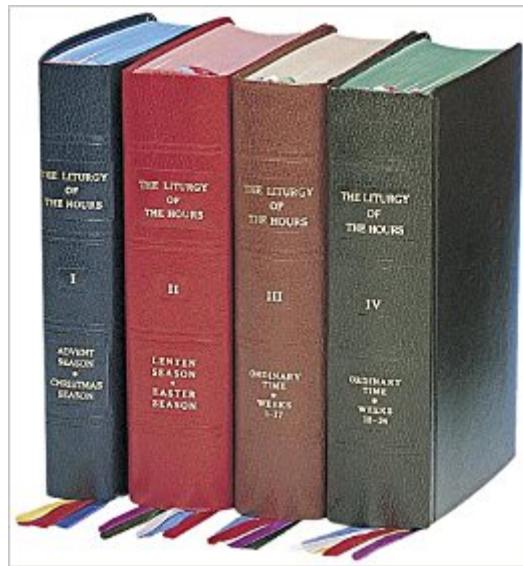


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# Liturgy Of The Hours (4-Volume Set)



## **Synopsis**

Each volume in this series is liturgically accurate, magnificently printed, and beautifully bound as befits its use for the Prayer of the Church. You will find this set ideal for both your private and your communal daily prayer.

## **Book Information**

Imitation Leather: 8160 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #38,996 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Ritual #33 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Prayerbooks #94 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Christianity

## **Customer Reviews**

I'll leave the other fine commentaries to explain the need for and the history of the Hours in a life of prayer, and concentrate on the tool itself and the mindset necessary to embrace all it holds. Anyone who has decided to purchase these books, has made a sizable investment and also made a strong personal commitment to advance their prayer life. They are intimidating. They look (and are) "official" and complicated. They are certainly not for light reading. They are not easy to use, nor is there an easy way to learn to use them. These are serious, life-long tools used to spiritually shape and grow the soul. With the shortest volume a bit over 1700 pages, and the longest almost 2400 pages, the Hours require attention, dedication, study and slow, steady easing into this rich resource. It can't be said enough that you must gain some knowledge on how to use these books and have discipline in following the path of the prayer. It takes a while to be comfortable with the books as they are configured. The volumes are structured well for their purpose, so you can go from section to section with ease, as you learn the flow of the Office. Your prayer will unfold from the center of the book, outward to the prayers for that Office, to both front and back sections as needed,

each section having content necessary to that Office. It will take some time to learn the method of prayer in conjunction with the Office recited. But the price you pay in the discipline required to learn to use this tool will be returned a hundredfold, with life-long (and further!) rewards. The books are big and have many sections that may be referenced during the Hours, and it takes some time to be comfortable with the back and forth between sections required at various times. Even changing sections, the book remains comfortable and usable for right or left hands. The volumes themselves are a bit larger than a large paperback novel. The first thing you notice is how very well the book fits the hand. One of the reasons to use a book rather than an electronic version for prayer, is the intimate tactile connection. As you pray, the feel of book-in-hand and the act of turning the page links you to the words, pulls you into the prayer. Even changing to a different section of the book provides a moment's pause to reflect and carry on a thought, which can be lost in the electronic versions of the Office. The paper is high quality and light weight, with a low-glare soft ivory color, enhancing the black print and the instructions printed in red, while not bleeding through the pages. Print size and type is easy on the eyes, and not hard to follow. The soft and pliable covers are colored for the seasons they represent, and hold comfortably in the hand while sitting or walking. In actual practice, one universally recognized problem is that there is no single authoritative guide easily teaching how to properly "use" the books in prayer, and the "instructions" such as they are, are not really clear and may be confusing in explaining the steps in how to pray the various Offices, holy days and seasons. One valuable tool I highly recommend, is the short and very well-written book "The Everyday Catholic's Guide to The Liturgy of the Hours" by Daria Sockey, and a visit to her very helpful blog. Internet based sites with helpful guides are also very available. All prayer requires effort, and more so here in this highly structured method of prayer. It's important to take your time to learn the set up of the book, the form of the Offices and the flow of the weekly and liturgical calendars. When beginning to pray with these resources, take it slow and easy, immersing yourself a little deeper into the discipline of prayer as you grow comfortable with each Office and what it holds. Do not do too much, or you will grow in frustration and work against progress in your prayer. This is a rich meal - take small bites and savor each one. One benefit as laity joining the raising of this prayer on behalf of the entire Church, is that we are not required to follow a certain form but we can adapt to our own circumstance and pray as we can, as little or as much as we will. This can help us to grow slowly and confidently in our prayer and method, expanding our reach as our need to grow closer to the Lord increases. For decades, I've switched between the excellent one volume version of the Hours and a four volume set, as circumstances dictated. The single volume is a great starting point and tutor in how to follow the structure of the Offices. The four volume set is a

treasury of riches from Tradition and the Living Word that will hold you close for a lifetime. May the Lord bless your efforts and your journey toward Him.

I previously used both Shorter Christian Prayer and Christian Prayer. Both are great additions to anyone's prayer life, but the complete Devine Office is even richer. Someone has accurately stated the musical notes are not in this as they are in Christian Prayer, but I tend to say the hymns (like poetry) so it didn't make any difference to me. The nice thing here is much more is laid out for you and requires less jumping back and forth. A good example is the Antiphons. They are reprinted at the end of each Psalm so you do not have to turn back to read them from a previous page. And each day is nicely laid out so you can go thru the entire office if you choose (I try, but it is hard to work in the daytime prayers during the day at work - even though they are fairly short). Perhaps the thing I have enjoyed the most is the complete Office of Readings. How wonderful to add to my daily prayers the readings from the Bible and from the early Church. Now about this set...outstanding quality! I got the black leather set and it came quickly and very nicely packaged. Each of the four volumes were individually wrapped and they were fitted snugly in a solid box. I am very pleased with the volumes, the timeliness of receipt, and overall quality. In conclusion, let me say this with open heart: if you are a Christian - Catholic or Protestant - and you want to jump start your prayer life or take it to a new level, you will find nothing better than praying the Devine Office (Liturgy of the Hours). Even praying just morning and evening prayers faithfully each day will draw you closer to God and enrich you.

If you have a love for this liturgical prayer, this four-volume set is a must-have. I know that many people prefer the much shorter versions, sometimes because there is just one book. But in this set you have every part of the liturgy, including all of the scripture and the Office of Readings. I find it much easier to use because you are not continually having to move from one place to another. The one volume set, which I had many years ago, I found to be very complicated to use because of the switching around. All you can think of is "where do I go next?" You spend so much time doing that that's it's impossible to concentrate on the prayer itself. Also, if you like the feel and aura of a prayer book, this is the set to get. Beautiful black leather with gold gilded pages and five ribbons. The paper is very thin and is an off-white, almost cream-colored paper. A beautiful and important prayer... a beautifully created set.

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