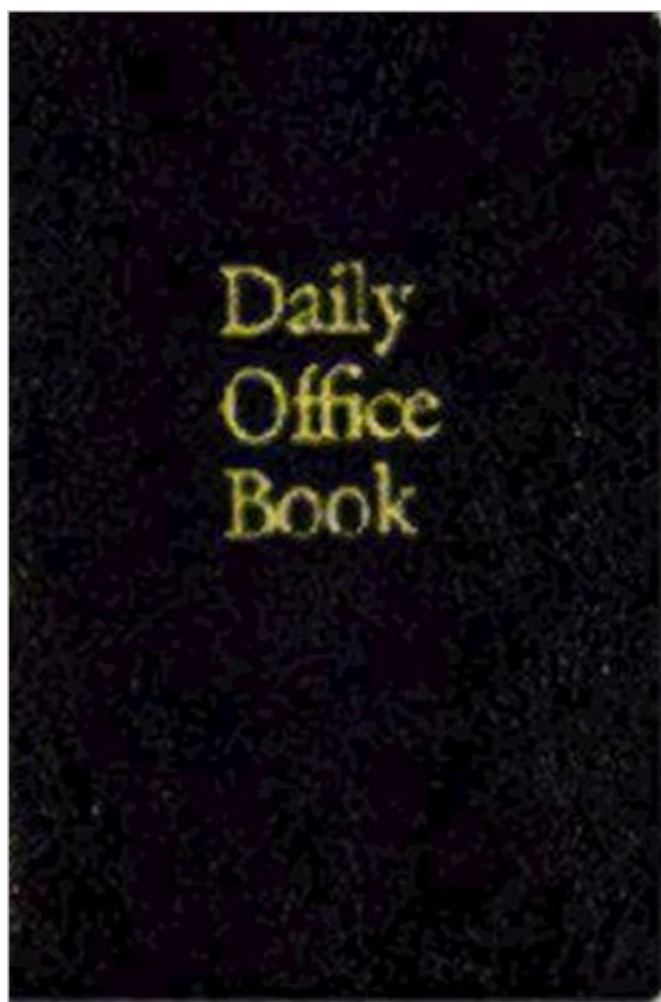


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Daily Office Book: Two-Volume Set



Synopsis

This handsome leather set of two books in a matching slipcase contains the Office, Psalter, Prayers and Collects, as well as the texts of the readings for both years in the Revised Standard Version of the scriptures. Gold edges and ribbon markers complete this set, designed for frequent use. (two volumes, 3,296 pp) The Daily Office Lectionary is on a two-year cycle, designated as Year One and Year Two. This selection of passages of Scripture are used when the Daily Office is read. The Daily Office includes remnants of the monastic Offices and it includes the services of Daily Morning Prayer, Daily Evening Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evensong, Daily Evening Prayer, and Compline. The Daily Office Lectionary has not been updated in the past fifty years. It is very different from the Revised Common Lectionary. Since the Daily Office is used every day, the user reads through more Scripture in a period of time, therefore this reading cycle requires only two years to complete while the Sunday Eucharistic Lectionary in the Revised Common Lectionary, only being read on Sundays is on a three year cycle.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (19 customer reviews)

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in Books > Religion & Spirituality #139215 in Books > Reference

Customer Reviews

This is the classic "Daily Office Book" set, or, less formally, the "Breviary," as it has been developed by, and as it is now used principally within, The Episcopal Church. It is a two volume set. Included in both books are complete texts for the "Rite One" and "Rite Two" forms of the Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer liturgies, exactly as they appear, along with their attendant rubrics, or liturgical directions and notes, in the most current American version of the Book of Common Prayer, which was approved for use by the Episcopal Church in 1979. Also from the 1979 BCP, and in both

volumes, are complete liturgies for Noonday Prayer and Compline, as well as texts for all of the Proper Collects, in their "traditional" and "contemporary" forms, the Church Calendar, and the entire Psalter (The Book of Psalms). Additionally, Volume I contains all of the Lections, that is, the scripture readings, for Year One of the Daily Office Lectionary, and Volume II contains all of the Office Readings as they are specified for Year Two of the same Lectionary. Both of these sets of lections come complete with readings for the special "Propers," or sets of lections, that are meant to be used for major Holy Days and Saints' Feasts, as they are marked within The Episcopal Church. Finally, all of the lections, as they appear in these volumes, have been taken from the Revised Standard Version (or, the RSV) of the Bible, which is a translation that is grounded in the tradition of the Authorized Version (AV) or so-called "King James Version" of the Bible. Additionally, the RSV is at once scholarly, literal, and elegant in ways which reflect its English roots and both the meaning and sense of the best original language texts of Holy Scripture that are available. Furthermore, the RSV is currently approved for use within all of mainstream Christian Churches of North America and the rest of the Anglo-American world, including the Roman Catholic Church. Finally, the scriptures that are reproduced in these volumes include those that have been assigned from the Deuterocanonical Scriptures, which in the Anglican tradition are also collectively if somewhat problematically called "The Apocrypha." Each volume is bound in black bonded leather. The texts therein are very well formatted and printed in an attractive and crisp typeset on gilt edged pages made of a quality tissue paper. Additionally, both books come complete with four black ribbons, which are perfectly spaced. Unfortunately, bonded leather is a composite material that is made from ground up scraps of real leather and a binding agent or glue. That is, bonded leather is to leather as press board is to wood. It is a shame that Church Publishing chose not to use genuine leather for these books, or at least a quality synthetic alternative, since the bonded leather simply cannot stand up to the years of regular use that these books should see. Indeed, in my long experience with these books, I have found that the bonded leather always becomes brittle with time, and so prone to splitting and cracking. However, given the usefulness and the cost of these books, they would certainly be worth their re-binding in genuine leather at once, when they are new, or after their covers fail, which will happen. These books are a must for anybody serving the Church in Holy Orders as a priest or deacon, or otherwise as a person religious, such as a monk or nun, and they would make a fine and appropriate gift for anyone who might be preparing for a life in any of these vocations. More generally, however, they can be enormously helpful aids for anybody who would make the Daily Office part of his or her regular devotional discipline. Indeed, this is very much the case regardless of whether or not one worships within the Episcopal/Anglican traditions. Certainly,

though all of the materials that are contained within these volumes have been prepared for use within the Episcopal Church, there is nothing about them which is substantively "denominational." This should be expected since The Episcopal Church is so very deeply and actively rooted within the tradition of the Church of England, which is in both principal and practice a Church that is both public and Catholic. And so, these volumes can well serve as significant assets for anyone who might be seeking to make the Daily Office, or the Hours, an effective part of their daily religious and spiritual discipline. The principal alternatives to The Daily Office Books are various versions of the Roman Breviary. But, in my admittedly limited experience with those volumes, I have found these Episcopal versions of the Office, presented as they are in these volumes, much easier to navigate.

Those of you who regularly pray using the Book of Common Prayer probably know all about this set. Two volumes contain all of the contents of the 1979 BCP (one volume for Year 1 and one volume for Year 2). Why two volumes? Because also included are all of the scripture readings for the year! Yep -- you don't have to juggle the Bible and the BCP on your lap. Very handy, especially if you're out and about. Ribbon markers hold your place, and a slip-case keeps the volumes neat on the shelf.

I have been using a variety of prayer books which were much easier to use. I wanted something more in depth to use but the books I had prior to this set were very difficult for me to understand how to use. I am still unsure of how to properly use this set and will have to seek further guidance, but these books are beautiful and will be used well once I figure out how. If anyone reads this comment and can give me some simple instructions please, please do so- Thanks to all. I would definitely recommend these books. Mike UPDATE- I received an email from a viewer of my comment who gave me some instruction- Thank you Richard for your guidance. I am now reading these books, with great joy, daily. they are after all very simple to use, once you get on track. I am enjoying them very much. Thanks again Peace and Grace to all

I have bought this on TWO separate occasions. Both were brand new. The first time I bought it, the heaviness of the ink was not uniform throughout the volumes, and there were pages that were barely legible because the print was so light. This rendered that set useless. I bought another copy a few months ago. I discovered that a signature was missing from the book, so I was not able to read the Daily Office for the second week of Lent as a result. This idea of this daily office book is so terrific, and it makes it possible for people to pray the daily office without a lot of skipping around

and having to carry a Bible, a Book of Common Prayer, and a lectionary. The books are attractive and portable. However, after having been burned twice, I simply won't buy another copy that might end up being defective too. I can't tell you how disappointing this is. Customers should not have to do a page by page examination of a publication to see if it is defective after they have bought it ... particularly one as expensive as this. It's a real shame.

By combining the daily offices from the book of common prayer with the scripture readings from the lectionary, the publishers have given us a very valuable one volume resource for observing the offices. Everything you need to observe the offices is contained in these two volumes. All you need to know is which year were are on, one or two. Grab that volume and yo have it all.

This is a very convenient and complete resource for those who do not want to carry multiple books and sources for reading the Daily Office.

Very pleased with this set. I always have problems moving to-and-fro in the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible. The Daily Office Set has all the Bible readings in the book itself and it has enough ribbon book marks to mark each section that I need marked. It creates the flow of the Daily Office that is beneficial for my personal saying of the Daily Office. It is also a smaller book than the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible. Less to carry around; less books to deal with; increased participation in the Daily Offices " a great and welcome benefit to me.

My primary complaint regarding this two volume set is that there is a single volume edition "Contemporary Office Book" which costs \$38 less than this two volume edition. I find the print in the single volume edition easier to read and easier to navigate through the pages. It also takes up less space on the bookshelf, and you don't have to remember which volume you need on any given day. Of all considerations, I say the cost is the main consideration, given the alternative.

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