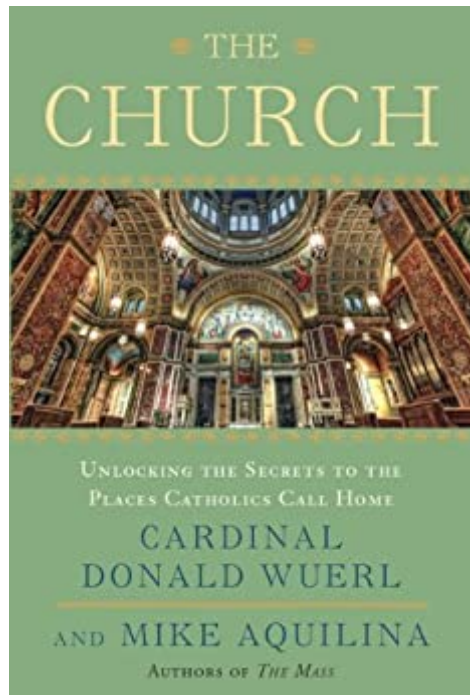




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The Church: Unlocking The Secrets To The Places Catholics Call Home



Synopsis

From the bestselling authors of *The Mass*, an insightful and practical guide that explores the architectural and spiritual components of the Catholic Church. Your local church is not only a physical place, but a spiritual home. In this thought-provoking book, Wuerl and Aquilina illuminate the importance of the Church in its many guises and examine the theological ideas behind the physical structure of churches, cathedrals, and basilicas. How is a church designed? What is the function of the altar? What does the nave represent? What is the significance of the choir loft? With eloquent prose and elegant black-and-white photography, these questions and many more will lead to answers that illuminate the history and practicality of Catholic life.

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Customer Reviews

This book is well written and organized making it easy to follow its objective. The information provides a basic description of the various parts of a Catholic church and its contents and expands on their historical and traditional origins. I like the inclusion of scriptural passages--especially

chapter/line references--allowing the reader to dig further. Other references, such as the writings of Church scholars, saints, etc., are also very helpful in bulking up the reader's understanding of the church symbols, decor, structure, icons and so much more. This is an essential book for those who just want to learn more about the church building and those who might feel that the "trappings" could be eliminated or are a distraction. It might even be of value as a "backup" to discussion around the dinner table. For the serious student of the subject though, it is somewhat cursory, but the references will be handy. I felt the authors could have offered more elaboration on some of the material. I would recommend this book to all Catholics and those who are interested in the real meaning behind all of those traditional arguments concerning the "trappings" of Catholic worship--especially the church building itself. I found it inspirational as well as informative.

The Church by Cardinal Wuerl and Mike Aquilina This book is the second in their trilogy series, The Mass being the first. It is a very easy book to read and would be an excellent Communion present for a late teen or an adult. Being a late convert to the Catholic Church (at 72 years of age), I did not know anything about the church building except that it has pews and there is an altar. This was the extent of my knowledge - but, not any more. I'm now savvy on the Church's interior furnishing from ambo and ambry to naves and tabernacle and everything in between. I even know that there's a poor box hidden away somewhere in my church. I now have to go searching. (LOL). From reading this book, I even know the name of the tinkling mass bells (sacring bells) and why the Church still uses them. This book is just loaded with tidbits of information. The chapter on Symbols and Abbreviations is fascinating. I even learned why we parishioners are dismissed so fast after receiving the Eucharist we're supposed to leave church, "to get out there and carry the Word forth to the outside world. As these authors said, "Christians go to church for respite, not refuge."

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All church planners and architects should read.

Most helpful, insightful, book on the Mass. Very thorough, leaves no doubt about why things are the way they are, and done the way they are done. A book to read again and again.

My husband ordered these copies at a great price and even bought a couple of extra in case someone in his parish needed one. They are giving my husband and daughter many hours of blessings!

I found Cardinal Wuerl and Mike's book informative. It is an easy read too. They revealed things that I did not know before. I recommend this book.

Thinking there wasn't anything I didn't know: found out I learned a lot more. Thanks Have loaned it out to several people

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