# ENTERING A CHURCH

## **Entering Church Not Dedicated to Prayer**

You may enter parts of a church (meeting room, social hall, cemetery, etc.) or monastery as long as they are not dedicated for prayer.

### **Entering Church Sanctuary No Longer Used for Prayer**

You may enter a church sanctuary that is no longer used for prayer.

#### **Entering Dual-Use Church**

If a church is used only infrequently for prayer services, a Jew may enter the church at other times but not during prayer services.

**EXAMPLE** You may enter the Sistine Chapel, in Vatican City.

REASON The Sistine Chapel was built as a church and even though it is sometimes used as a church, it is

primarily an art museum.

### **Standing in Church Doorway**

You may stand in the doorway of a church as long as:

- The doorway is at least 7 feet away from the sanctuary, and
- You do not enter a sanctuary used for prayer services.

### **Standing in Church Shadow**

You may stand in the shadow of a church.

## **Deriving Benefit from Church Sanctuary**

You may not derive any benefit from a church sanctuary.

### **Buying from Church or Salvation Army**

You may buy goods from a church, Salvation army, etc.

© Copyright 2025 Richard B. Aiken | www.practicalhalacha.com