MARIST PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2026

POPE'S INTENTION: FOR SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times.

December 1 – Tuesday of the 1st Week of Advent
Psalm Week 1 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 11:1-10: "A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse."
Lk 10:21-24: "No-one knows who the Son is except the Father."

Reminder: From 01 - 23rd, Annual leave of the Provincial.

Anniversary: **In 1990,** three brothers - the late Brother Edmund NWONKWO (Nigerian), Superior of the community, the late Brother Ferdinand OKORIERE (Nigerian), and Brother Philip NINFAASIE (Ghanaian) - moved to Ahwiren to establish a new Marist Community.
World Day of Fighting against AIDS.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
We share our experiences with those with whom we minister, the joys and sorrows involved in our work, and where we have felt the presence of God. With them, we evaluate the quality of our work.

Intentions: For those suffering from AIDS and HIV.
For Superior General and his intentions.

December 2 – Wednesday of the 1st Week of Advent
Psalm Week 1 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 25:6-10a: "The Lord will prepare a banquet for every nation."
Mt 15:29-37: "The crowds praised the God of Israel."

Reminder: In 1990, the official opening of the St. Joseph Community in Ahwiren, Ghana, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We all share a common concern for our work and see ourselves co-responsible for planning, animating and evaluating our ministry. Those in leadership positions foster this coresponsibility through distributing the work to be done, and through establishing structures to both coordinate our efforts and ensure wide participation in decision-making.

Intentions: For shared responsibility and collaborative leadership in our ministry.
For all those who are victims of modern forms of slavery.
For the Marist community of Provincial House, Accra.

December 3 – Thursday of the 1st Week of Advent
Psalm Week 1 Vestment: White

Memorial of St Francis Xavier, Jesuit, one of the greatest of all Christian missionaries, 16th century.

Liturgy: Is 26:1-6: "Open the gates; let the upright nation come in."
Mt 7:21, 24-27: "The wise man built his house on a rock."

Reminder: International Day of Disabled Persons.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

In the conduct of our ministries, we need to be initiative takers, hopeful and persevering, not expecting immediate results, and capable of encouraging others to join our project, while at the same time, open to participate and collaborate in the initiatives of others.

Intentions: That, living upright lives and listening to God's word, we may build our lives firmly on Christ the solid rock.
For all missionaries, priests, religious and lay, throughout the world.
For the Marist Community of Ashalaja.

December 4 – Friday of the 1st Week of Advent
Psalm Week 1 Vestment: Violet

Memorial of Saint John Damascene (c. 675–749). He was a priest and Doctor of the Church, renowned for defending the veneration of icons during the iconoclastic controversy. He was also a gifted theologian and hymnographer whose writings deeply shaped Eastern and Western Christian thought.

Liturgy: Is 29:17-24: "In a very short time, the deaf will hear and the eyes of the blind will see."
Mt 9:27-31: "Take care that no-one learns about this."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
We actively participate in God's mission in the world, particularly in the lives of children and young people, especially those who are least favored.

Intentions: That God may open our eyes and ears to recognize His saving work among us.
That we may serve children and young people, especially the least favored, with humble dedication.

December 5 – Saturday of the 1st Week of Advent
Psalm Week 1 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 30:19-21, 23-26: "The Lord God will be gracious to you and hear your cry."
Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8: "The harvest is rich but the laborers are few."

Reminder: International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
Jesus proclaims a new vision of human society which begins with loving one another, together sharing the bread of life, and transcending the divisions we have created of ethnicity, ideology, religious, cultural and social differences, wealth, gender, or any other criteria of exclusion.

Intentions: For trust in God who hears our cry.
For more laborers in the Lord's harvest.
For Brother Basil Ngum and all who serve in social and economic development.

Marist Saturday: day of prayers for vocations in our province and in the institute at large.

December 6 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Psalm Week 2 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 40:1-5, 9-11: "The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it."
2 Pt 3:8-14: "We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth."
Mk 1:1-8: "A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Ever mindful of God's presence, especially in times of trial and difficulty, Marcellin was open to God's will as it unfolded in the events and circumstances of life.

Intentions: That we may prepare our hearts for the Lord, trusting in God's presence and promise.

For all the brothers involved in ongoing formation programs.

For Brother Provincial Superior and his Council.

December 7 – Monday of the 2nd Week of Advent
Psalm Week 2 Vestment: White

Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Liturgy: Is 35:1-10: "The return of the redeemed through the desert."

Lk 5:17-26: "Your sins are forgiven you: get up and walk."

Reminder: In 1889, opening of the first Marist school in Colombia (Popayán).

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

The words of Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain…" became his constant prayer.

Intentions: For healing, forgiveness, and renewal as we journey with the Lord through life's deserts.

That the Lord may build and sustain our Marist works, especially our schools, according to His will.

In thanksgiving to God for the Marist mission in Colombia, and for the continued fruitfulness of Marist education.

December 8 – Tuesday of the 2nd Week of Advent
SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Office Proper Vestment: White

Liturgy: Gn 3:9-15, 20: "The mother of all those who live."

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12: "Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ."

Lk 1:26-38: "I am the handmaid of the Lord."

Anniversaries: In 1842, consecration of the Institute to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Education, in its broadest sense, is our field of evangelizing in the various settings where we are present. In all of these, we Marists offer a holistic education, drawing on the Christian vision of the human person and of human development.

Intentions: For the grace to keep alive the devotion to Mary.
For the Marist Community of Buokrom.

December 9 – Wednesday of the 2nd Week of Advent
Psalm Week 2 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 40:25-31: "The Lord strengthens the powerless."
Mt 11:28-30: "My yoke is easy and my burden light."

Anniversaries: In 1879, death of Bro Louis-Marie, 2nd Superior General (1860 to 1879).

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We welcome children and young people. We see in each one the image and likeness of God, worthy of our respect and love, no matter their circumstances, religious belief, their spiritual searching, or the reality of their lives.

Intentions: For strength and rest in the Lord, who renews the weary and lightens our burdens.
That we may welcome every child and young person with respect and love, recognizing God's image in each one.

December 10 – Thursday of the 2nd Week of Advent
Psalm Week 2 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 41:13-20: "I, the Holy One of Israel, am your redeemer."
Mt 11:11-15: "A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen."

Reminder: Human Rights Day.

Anniversaries: In 1984, arrival of the first Brothers to Kenya (Lake Victoria, Roo).
In 1984, Desmond Tutu is awarded the Nobel Prize of Peace.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We help children and young people to grow in personal freedom, responsibility, and a sense of the demands of life. In a spirit of solidarity, we invite them to give freely of themselves, to share what they have, and to commit themselves joyfully to whatever they undertake.

Intentions: For respect for human dignity and peace.
In thanksgiving for the Marist mission in Kenya.
For the grace to be true witnesses to peace.

December 11 – Friday of the 2nd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 2 **Vestment: Violet**

Memorial of Pope Saint Damasus I (304–384) was a strong defender of Church unity and orthodox faith, and he promoted the use of Latin in the liturgy. He is also remembered for commissioning Saint Jerome to translate the Bible into Latin, the Vulgate.

Liturgy: Is 48:17-19: "If you had been alert to my commandments, your happiness would have been like a river."
Mt 11:16-19: "They heed neither John nor the Son of Man."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
We engage children and young people in a dialogue of life which brings them into touch with the Word of God and the Spirit at work in their hearts.

Intentions: That we may listen to God's word and guide young people to encounter it in their lives.
For the Marist mission in Chad.

December 12 – Saturday of the 2nd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 2 **Vestment: Violet**

Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Liturgy: Eccl 48:1-4, 9-12: "The prophet Elijah will come."
Mt 17:10-13: "Elijah has come already and they did not recognize him."

Birthday: Brother Mantobaye Kimingar François (1989), from Chad.

Anniversary: In 1964, Martin Luther King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
We present the Good News as Jesus' vision for all humanity: reaching out to the whole of society, seeking the common good of all, and taking responsibility for the future of humanity and of God's creation.

Intentions: That, like Mary, we may welcome the coming of the Lord with faith, trust, and joyful obedience.
For all those working for peace and justice in our troubled world.
For Brother François, his vocation, family, personal intentions and his apostolates in Babenga.

Marist Saturday: day of prayers for vocations in our province and in the institute at large.

December 13 – Sunday, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)
Office: Week 3 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11: "He has sent me to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord."
1 Thes 5:16-24: "May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28: "There stands among you the one coming after me."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
We promote ecumenical and inter-faith dialogue.45 In settings characterised by religious pluralism, we respect the religious freedom and conscience of all, valuing God's presence in all religious traditions.

Intentions: That we may faithfully witness to Christ as we await His coming.
For the Provincial Council.

Marist-Saturday: For a better understanding of our identity and our vocation.

December 14 – Monday of the 3rd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 3 Vestment: White

Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Liturgy: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a: "The oracles of Balaam."
Mt 21:23-27: "I will not tell you my authority for acting like this."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
Together with **young adults,** we create spaces to address their questions about the meaning of life, about responsibility, and life-giving values. We foster their environmental, social and political awareness and encourage their participation in organisations and groups working for social change.

Intentions: That we may help young adults grow in responsibility and active participation for positive change.
For the Marist community of MIC, Nairobi.

December 15 – Tuesday of the 3rd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 3 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13: "All peoples shall invoke the Lord's name and serve him."
Mt 21:28-32: "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

Birthday: Brother Franklin Dingamadji, 1997.

Anniversaries: In 1949, first Marist foundation in Nigeria.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Education is a mutual process. The trust that children, adolescents and young people have in us, their energy and resilience, their honesty and searching, their goodness and faith touches us and encourages us in our faith.

Intentions: That all people may turn to the Lord and live according to His will.
For Brother Franklin's intention, his family, vocation, and community.
For Brothers and works in the Province of Nigeria.

December 16 – Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 3 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25: "I, the Lord, shall create deliverance."
Lk 7:18b-23: "Are you the one who is to come?"

Anniversaries: In 2004, inauguration of the Provincial House, Accra, Ghana.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Our work as educators is not simply a career, it is a vocation.

Intentions: In thanksgiving for the Provincial House in Accra.
That our work as educators may be lived as a true vocation.

December 17 – Thursday of the 3rd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 3 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Gn 49:2, 8-10: "Until he comes, the scepter will not pass from Judah."
Mt 1:1-17: "The ancestry of Jesus Christ, the son of David."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Love XIX is the core of God's mission as exemplified in the life and teaching of Jesus, entrusted to Marcellin in the past and now to us in the present. From this, we share Marcellin's intuition that "to educate children properly we must love them and love them all equally".

Intentions: That, rooted in God's love, we may educate all children with equal care and compassion.
That we may recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah and place our hope in Him.
For Brothers and works of the Marist Province of Southern Africa.

December 18 – Friday of the 3rd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 3 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Jer 23:5-8: "I will raise a virtuous Branch for David."
Mt 1:18-25: "How Jesus Christ came to be born."

Reminder: International Migrants Day.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

The **Marian aspect of our spirituality**12 is expressed above all in our desire to imitate her attitudes towards others and to God.

Intentions: For migrants and refugees to be welcomed and protected with dignity.
For Pope Leo XIV and his intentions.
For Brothers and works of the Marist Province of Madagascar.

December 19 – Saturday of the 3rd Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 3 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a: "You will conceive and bear a son."
Lk 1:5-25: "Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son."

Anniversaries: In 1886, arrival of the first Brothers to Spain.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We consciously bring a **Marian dimension** to our catechesis and prayer with children and young people. We lead them to love and honour Mary. We inspire them to imitate her tenderness, strength, and constancy in faith, and to turn to her often in prayer.

Intentions: For trust in God's promises, who brings life and hope beyond all expectations.
In thanksgiving for the arrival of the first Brothers in Spain, and for the continued vitality of the Marist mission there.

Marist Saturday: day of prayers for vocations in our province and in the institute at large.

December 20 – Sunday of the 4th Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 4 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16: "Your house and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me."
Rom 16:25-27: "The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages."
Lk 1:26-38: "I am the handmaid of the Lord."

Reminder: In 1993, the first Marist mission in Pleebo, Liberia, was closed down due to the civil war.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

In all that we do, we associate ourselves with Mary, so as to bring Christ to birth in the hearts of all children and young people. "All to Jesus through Mary. All to Mary for Jesus."

Intentions: For our brothers and the people of Liberia, that peace, healing, and hope may prevail.
For appreciation of Mary in our Institute.
For the brothers and works in all the Provinces in Spain.

December 21 – Monday of the 4th Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 4 Vestment: Violet

Memorial of Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Liturgy: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a: "See how my Beloved comes, leaping on the mountains."
Lk 1:39-45: "Why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord?"

Anniversaries: In 1915, Marist foundation in Morocco. The Brothers stayed there until 1975.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Wherever we are, then, we undertake to build community among all associated with our ministries and activities, including those who work alongside us, the children and young people in our care and their families.

Intentions: In thanksgiving for the Marist mission in Morocco.
For Marist community of Ahwiren.

December 22 – Tuesday of the 4th Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 4 Vestment: Violet

Liturgy: 1 Sm 1:24-28: "This is the child I prayed for: he is made over to the Lord."
Lk 1:46-56: "The Almighty has done great things for me."

Birthday: Brother Norbert Afoni Ndilon (1988), from Cameroon.

Anniversaries: In 1988, blessing of the Marist School in Korhogo, Cote d'Ivoire.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

In our educational ministries in particular, this family spirit stands in contrast to a purely results-oriented education which does not respect the dignity and needs of each person.

Intentions: For all the brothers and lay people working in the Marist School, Korhogo.
For Brother Norbert, vocation, family, personal intention and his community.

December 23 – Wednesday of the 4th Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 4 **Vestment: Violet**

Liturgy: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24: "Before my day comes, I will send you Elijah my prophet."
Lk 1:57-66: "His name is John."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We educate above all by being present to children and young people in ways that show them that we care for them personally. We welcome them, listen attentively to them, and make time for them, getting to know each one individually.

Intentions: That we may educate by being present and attentive to each child and young person.
For peace in African countries.
For Bishop and clergy in the diocese where we work.

December 24 – Thursday of the 4th Week of Advent
Psalms: Week 4 **Vestment: Violet**

Liturgy: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16: "Your house and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me."
Lk 1:67-79: "You, little child, shall be the prophet of the Most High."

Anniversaries: In 1836, the first group of Marist missionaries (Fathers and Brothers) sailed from Le Havre to Oceania.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We seek to understand and become familiar with the lives of children and young people. We engage with their world by meeting them where they are, including through our involvement in co-curricular activities.

Intentions: For our parents and relatives as they prepare themselves for Christmas.

December 25 – Friday – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas Day)
Psalm: Proper Vestment: White

Liturgy: Is 52:7-10: "Rejoice, for the Lord is consoling his people."
Heb 1:1-6: "God has spoken to us through his Son."
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16): "The Word was made flesh, and lived among us."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
To simplicity we add humility and modesty, making the three violets of our Marist tradition: patiently allowing the action of God to work through us and seeking "to do good quietly".

Intentions: For the grace to experience the peace and joy of Christmas.
That we may live with simplicity, humility, and modesty, allowing God to work quietly through us.

December 26 – Saturday – Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr
Psalm: Proper Vestment: Red

Liturgy: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59: "The Martyrdom of Stephen."
Mt 10:17-22: "The Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you."

Birthday: Brother Stéphane Tano Pokou Komenan (1980), from Cote d'Ivoire.

Reminder: Marist Brothers Family Feast Day – we celebrate together in Community (as country if possible).

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
Like Marcellin, Marist educators are called to give generously of ourselves and have a balance of life, integrating soul and service.

Intentions: For those who are persecuted for their faith.
For Brother Pokou, his vocation, family, personal intention and community of Bouaké.

Marist Saturday: day of prayers for vocations in our province and in the institute at large.

December 27 – Sunday – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
Psalm: Proper Vestment: White

Liturgy: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3: "Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood."
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19: "The faith of Abraham and of Sarah."
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40: "My eyes have seen your salvation."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
Marist educational ministries are centres of learning, life, evangelization, and innovation. Within them, children and young people are taught to be

competent in learning to know, to do, to be, to live together, and to become agents of transformation.

Intentions: That our Marist educational ministries may form children and young people to grow, serve, and transform the world.
For all domestic workers in our communities.
For community leaders in our province.

December 28 – Monday – The Holy Innocents, Feast Martyrs
Psalm: Proper Vestment: Red

Liturgy: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2: "The blood of Jesus Christ purifies us all from sin."
Mt 2:13-18: "The massacre of the innocents."

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We are enterprising in providing materials and resources, mindful of our financial capacity and projections. We make conscious and responsible use of our resources to ensure sustainability.

Intentions: That we may live in the cleansing grace of Christ and turn away from sin.
That we may use our resources responsibly and sustainably in the service of our mission.

December 29 – Tuesday – Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Psalm: Proper Vestment: White

Memorial of St Thomas Becket, Bishop of Canterbury. He defended the right of the Church and was murdered by the King of England.

Liturgy: 1 Jn 2:3-11: "Anyone who loves his brother is living in the light."
Lk 2:22-35: "You have prepared a light to enlighten the pagans."

Anniversaries: In 2020, death of Brother Joachim Doua from the Ivory Coast.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

We seek to be innovative in our teaching-learning processes, favouring those that give greater prominence to student involvement in their subject choice and in the use of an experiential methodology that closely links theory and practice

Intentions: In thanksgiving for the life of Brother Joachim Doua, and for the repose of his soul.
That we may be creative and student-centered in our teaching and learning.

December 30 – Wednesday – Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Psalm: Proper Vestment: White

Liturgy: 1 Jn 2:12-17: "Observance of the will of God."
Lk 2:36-40: "Anna speaks of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem."

Birthday: Brother Evaristus Mbiydzenyuy (1983), from Cameroon.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
Marcellin's great desire and legacy is that we relate to each other and to children and young people as members of a loving family.

Intentions: That we may relate to one another and to children and young people as members of a loving family.
For peace in the countries of war and conflict.
For Brother Evaristus, his vocation, family, friends and his mission in Spain.

December 31 – Thursday – Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Psalm: Proper Vestment: White

Memorial of St. Sylvester I, Pope.

Liturgy: 1 Jn 2:18-21
Jn 1:1-18

Anniversaries: In 1852, the first Marist foundation in London.

Reflection: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT
In institutional settings, we seek a **balanced approach**, avoiding being overly watchful or simply "laissez-faire". Our way of being present to young people is proactive and thoughtful.

Intentions: In thanksgiving for the first Marist foundation in London.
That we may be thoughtfully and proactively present to young people.
For the successful end of the year 2026, and that the Lord may grant us a fruitful and prosperous year 2027