

27TH SUNDAY YEAR A - OCTOBER 3rd and 4th 2026

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

My dear brothers and Sisters, I welcome you to this sacrifice of Mass. This weekend is a historical one, as we are celebrating the feast of St. Bavo. It is a day of celebration and reflection as one family - we celebrate the gift of faith, that we all share, following the life and conversion of our patron Saint, St. Bavo.

Therefore, I will say to all of us, "Rejoice, be joyful, St Bavo is praying for us – Happy Feast Day"

The first Sunday of October as well, the Church in the USA celebrates the respect for life. Life is the greatest gift God has given to humanity. We have the moral obligation of preserving and respecting life as believers.

In the Liturgy of the word, following the parable presented by Jesus Christ in the gospel; in Ancient Israel, God sent many Prophets to His Vineyard - the world, among people, but most prophets were rejected and killed for preaching the truth from God and about people's morality:

The Bible tells us:

- **Prophet Jeremiah** - beaten and thrown into a cistern for telling the truth (Jeremiah 38:6)
- Prophet Zechariah, son of Jehoiada - stoned to death in the temple courtyard because he rebuked the people (2 Chronicles 24:20-21) - Jesus Himself mentions him in Matthew 23:35
- **Prophet Isaiah** - according to tradition, sawn in two under King Manasseh
- **Prophet Amos** - persecuted and expelled for preaching justice
- **Prophet John the Baptist** - beheaded by Herod because he preached against immorality (Matthew 14:10) - the last prophet of the Old Covenant
- And many others

They were killed not because they did wrong, but because they said: **"Repent, turn back to God, stop sinning"**.

In the Modern Israel, God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, and also, he was killed, but conquered death by rising from the dead.

The practical lessons today:

1. WE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, WE ALL BELONG TO GOD

We are a chosen race, by the virtue of our Baptism, we all belong to God, and our life ought to resemble who we are. Like, when I look in a mirror, the reflected image is for Fr. Francis - a black face with small eyes. God has planted us in his vineyard, in his church. For a specific purpose. We ought to look like we are church people everyday and everywhere.

2. WE NEED TO DO A CONSTANT CONVERSION

As a chosen people, our conversion should be constant, we should fully accept Jesus Christ, follow his teaching every day, love one another every day, be truthful every day, like St. Bavo, he chose a new path of life, of fully accepting to make a positive U-turn of his life. And in a constant conversion we bear great fruits of love, kindness, generosity, respect for one another, joy and so many.

In Constant Conversion, St. Paul has told us in the Second reading, to be free from fear and anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let our needs be made known to God. And by His love and Mercy, God will always respond to us.

We ask Mother Mary and St. Bavo to pray for us.

Happy feast day of St. Bavo.