

## Reflection Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Week Lent 2023

Caiaphas never understood the words he spoke about one man dying for the people yet that is precisely what Jesus did. As Ezekiel plainly says, God is the one who comes looking for us in order to bring us back together, to create a family that reflects the image of God in the way it lives and prays and works. God did this by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to us. The Passion that will be read this weekend is not meant to make us feel shamed even though we do bear some of the guilt. The passion is the greatest story of love that is expressed so eloquently in Jesus perseverance and acceptance of the suffering and abuse that sought to prevent him from dying on the Cross. The Father was with him all the time but it was also the love Jesus has for each of us that spurred him on. Jesus gave us everything and continues to do so. Experience the power and the presence of that love as you listen to the Passion this weekend and your response will be a response out of love for Jesus and not out of shame!!!

**Pope Francis:** *“Many Christians spend their time looking at the crucifix, because there they find everything because they have understood — the Holy Spirit has helped them understand — that (on the cross) there is all the knowledge, all of God’s love, all Christian wisdom. God loves us and he loves us — as one saint said — with madness. God’s love seems like madness! For the crucifix is not an object to put here or there but rather the expression of God’s love.”*