

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ON**  
**THE EMOTIONS AND THE MORAL LIFE**

*Theology for the Laity Course*  
*St. Louis Bertrand Parish – Summer 2022*

Fr. Michael O'Connor, O.P., S.T.D.

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**SATURDAY, JUNE 4**

- 8:30-9:00AM – Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00AM – Lecture 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE PASSIONS
- 10:00-10:20AM – Q & A
- 10:20-10:30AM – Break
- 10:30-11:30AM – Lecture 2: THE CONCUPISCIBLE PASSIONS
- 11:30-11:50AM – Q & A
- 12:00PM – Mass

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11**

- 8:30-9:00AM – Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00AM – Lecture 3: THE IRASCIBLE PASSIONS
- 10:00-10:20AM – Q & A
- 10:20-10:30AM – Break
- 10:30-11:30AM – Lecture 4: THE PASSIONS AND THE MORAL LIFE
- 11:30-11:50AM – Q & A
- 12:00PM – Mass

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## LECTURE 1: Introduction to the Passions

- PASSION
  - *A passion (emotion) is a movement of the soul when we perceive good or evil, with a corresponding effect upon the body.*
  - There are always two things that work in a passion:
    - A movement in the soul
    - A change (alteration) in the body
- TWO CATEGORIES OF PASSIONS (11 PASSIONS)
  - Concupiscible Passions: deal with simple sensible [sensed] goods and evils which cause pleasure or pain (sorrow)
    - **Love / Hatred**
    - **Desire / Aversion**
    - **Pleasure / Sorrow**
  - Irascible Passions: deal with difficult and arduous goods and evils
    - **Hope / Despair**
    - **Daring / Fear**
    - **Anger**
- TWO FUNDAMENTAL THOMISTIC IDEAS ABOUT THE PASSIONS
  - The passions are neither absolutely good nor absolutely evil, but are neutral in themselves, and become good or evil insofar as they are subject to reason.
  - Rightly ordered passions are essential to the life of virtue and moral flourishing.