



THE CURRENT

Cathedral Prep School & Seminary

Very Rev. Joseph Fonti, Rector-President, Mr. Richie Diaz, Principal

The Dedication of the Bishop Francis Xavier Ford Center

By: Robert Mestrandrea



On December 20th, Bishop DiMarzio visited Cathedral for our annual Christmas mass and breakfast. The day started with mass as Bishop DiMarzio spoke about the year of vocations and how we need priests in our diocese. After mass all the students went to the former “studio” for the dedication of the new Ford Center. Cathedral is one of six places in our diocese to receive an official portrait of Bishop Francis Xavier Ford. Bishop DiMarzio asked us to pray for the canonization of Bishop Ford because of the beautiful life he lived, helping and caring for people. Ford was born in Brooklyn and attended Cathedral College in Manhattan.

While studying there, he felt a call to respond to the vision of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, which was founded in 1911 by the Catholic bishops of the United States for overseas service. Upon completion of his studies, he was accepted by the Society. Ford died in a prison in Guangzhou, China, on February 21, 1952. He was the first American Roman Catholic bishop, and fourth American civilian, known to have died in the prisons of the Chinese Communists.

The British Seniors Take Brooklyn

By: Joseph Krug

On December 15th, the senior History of New York class embarked on a journey to the distant and uncharted land of Brooklyn. To the curious reader, wondering why we went to Brooklyn, I say this: the nearly neglected Battle of Brooklyn was perhaps one of the most necessary and dramatic battles of the Revolutionary War. We, the motley crew of History of New York seniors, traveled with Mr. Sammarco, our fearless leader, and Colonel Sammarco, his fearless leader, under the East River to beautiful Brooklyn. We visited a plethora of sites wherein those brave soldiers themselves fought and died. We

hiked about five miles, through parts of Prospect Park and urban Brooklyn. We visited monuments such as one to the

Maryland 400, who served a key part in defending the Continental Army from the British. Colonel Sammarco gave a fascinating military commentary throughout, teaching about tactics involving flanks and downhill combat, like those present in the Battle of Brooklyn. We also paid a visit to the beautiful co-cathedral of St. Joseph's. There, Monsignor Harrington gave us a tour of the Church, showing us the new additions which had been made, including Marian images from around the world. Overall, the trip was a success. Having walked in the footsteps of those brave troops that fought to create this country, one is given a fresh sense of the preciousness of life and freedom.



Bench Memorial in Memory of Markus Kotnik

By: Robert Mestrandrea

On Saturday, December 23rd, the Cathedral Prep and Glendale community joined together in Dry Harbor Park with the parents and elected officials of District 31 to remember our dear brother Markus Kotnik with a bench memorial ceremony. Markus' father Frank talked about how Markus loved playing in Dry Harbor Park, which is very close to where Markus lived. Fr. Frank Hughes of St. Pancras Church gave an opening prayer, and Fr. Fonti closed the ceremony with a prayer. Even though it was a rainy day, there were many people who came to support the Kotnik family and show their love for Markus. On the bench, there is a little plaque that says, In Loving Memory of Markus Kotnik, "Have a great day". We, along with the members of Glendale, are still mourning and remembering the dear life of our brother Markus Kotnik. "Have a great day!"



Greatness Journey 3.0

By: Sebastian Rosas

I know all of you have heard the phrase, "New Year, New Me!" and I hope many of you will in fact see this new year as an opportunity to change an aspect of your life that is keeping you from reaching your goals. Like I've been tirelessly saying, DAILY HABITS are the most effective, and guaranteed, way to reach your goals and change your life. Doing these good actions repeatedly until they become second nature will reap you unbelievable benefits. For these results to be significant, studies show that it takes about three months of repeated action. Since it becomes second nature after about a month, the only real effort comes when you are first starting and trying to remain consistent.

However, I have not yet told you the most effective way to make these habits stick. This method is not only extremely simple to remember, but you can begin doing today! It is a three-step process introduced by Charles Duhigg in his book, *The Power of Habit*, and is known as the "Cue - Routine - Reward" Process (C-R-R).

1. Cue: Set something that acts as a catalyst/stimulus/reminder for you to do the habit you wanted to do. For example, you create the cue (write it down) that when you wake up in the morning, and the moment your feet touch the floor, you will immediately do the habit you determined to do (jumping jacks, meditation, prayer, etc.) You can do this to make good habits stick, as well as to replace any bad habits. For example, if you want to work out this new year, but the moment you get home all you want to do is lay on the couch, then your cue can be the following: The moment you open the door and enter your home, set that action of entering as your cue to work out, and immediately grab the running shoes and gym clothes you conveniently placed near the door the night before (put everything in easy reach).
2. Routine- Put very simply, it is the process of doing whatever habit you have committed to doing.
3. Reward- You know that feeling of satisfaction and self-accomplishment you get after you finally finish that three-page paper that you have been stressing over? Or when you go into the bank and are pleasantly shocked at how much you've saved up in one year (saving habit). Well, this is the reward, and it doesn't have to be as long-term as the latter example. Every time you perceive the cue and bring about the routine (habit), you immediately get the small/short-term reward of satisfaction for staying true to your resolution and accomplishing what you set to do. Not only that, but these small daily rewards encourage you to continue your journey, and prepare you to receive your well-deserved big reward in the long run.

John's Reel Reviews: *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (Episode VIII) *SPOILER FREE*

By: John Schilling



(Photo Credit: amomssimpression.com)

Arguably the most anticipated movie of 2017, *The Last Jedi* did not disappoint to provide a thrilling new chapter in the Star Wars saga. Under the direction of Rian Johnson, the film takes many interesting turns and tends to go where a Star Wars movie has never gone before. This could be a very rewarding decision, if done properly...and that's where this review begins!

The film picks up right where JJ Abrams' *The Force Awakens* left off, but yet it feels very different. It almost seems as if Abrams set up the Star Wars franchise to head one direction and Johnson took a different route. This can be seen in a variety of instances, such as Luke's reaction to Rey finding him and handing him his old lightsaber, which shocked the audience. This scene actually ties into another common quality of this film, which is the comedy. There are many scenes in this film that contain excessive humor and sometimes it works, but most times it sways the focus and takes away the seriousness the scene really needs to be effective. For me, I didn't mind the humor as much as others, but I definitely feel it was out of place in certain scenes. What I do like about this film is mostly the action and the cinematography. Each fight scene present in the film is properly executed and choreographed, which is a huge relief. Visually, the film is stunning. Especially, the ending scene, and I'll leave it at that.

In terms of the cast, most of the returning cast members are extraordinary in their roles with some disappointments. Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher give great, memorable performances as Luke and Leia, respectively. Daisy Ridley and Adam Driver truly shine in this film, as Rey and Kylo Ren/Ben Solo, respectively, and this allows their characters to grow in power and mature somewhat. Oscar Isaac is given more screen time as Poe this time around and he really seizes the opportunity, which as a result makes him a strong presence in the film. John Boyega, unfortunately, gets set aside in this movie as Finn, which really makes him ineffective, but not to any fault of his own. The new characters in this film are also very ineffective, since they serve no real purpose and head in questionable directions as the film progresses.

Often in this film, you see these exciting, action-packed scenes and revelations, but they are definitely not what you expect to see or hear. While they answer some questions from *The Force Awakens*, they spark even more questions, leaving the audience restless. The audience is just forced to accept certain things as they are presented, which may very well be justified, but it's exceptionally frustrating. For example, there is one particular scene that takes place on Snoke's ship and while it is a cool scene, it is easily one that probably should not have happened.

The problem with this film is actually not the film itself, but the nature of its release and the audience. One of the most common criticisms of this movie is that it doesn't live up to the hype, which is true but only because the perception of this film is way off. This film was never intended to be as big of a release as *The Force Awakens*. Instead, it was meant to just continue the story and despite some bumpy roads, succeeds in doing so. Yes, it has flaws, but it's far from a terrible film. *The Last Jedi* is a great film and deserves much more credit than it is currently receiving because the positives truly outweigh the weaknesses. The final "face off" in this film, for example, is mind-blowing and defies any expectations the audience could ever formulate. Not to mention, a surprise, but heavily rumored return of a legendary character that is nostalgic and awesome to see. And as mentioned before, some great fight scenes filled with great action allows everything to come full circle.

Overall, *The Last Jedi* is a good film with some flaws here and there, but it does not fail to entertain the audience one bit. Keep in mind, *The Force Awakens* is considered by some fans to be too much like the originals, while *The Last Jedi* is already considered by many fans to be too different. In the end, the fans will always be harsh with these Star Wars films simply because they are not the originals and while this may be unfair, it's the shameful reality of the situation. The next installment, Episode IX, is set for a December 2019 release with JJ Abrams returning to direct, which might be the best idea to save the franchise from completely splitting the Star Wars fan base.

Tips for Taking Your Midterm Examinations

By: Kevin Plut



KEEP CALM AND STUDY FOR MIDTERMS

Midterm season is rapidly approaching and this matter should not be taken lightly in the slightest. Midterm season takes around a week of school for most students, and it can be a tough week to live through and prepare for. Midterm examinations are the culmination of the first two quarters of your learning, around half of your school-year's education. Students take a midterm for each of their classes, either during the week dedicated for midterms or in the subject's class. This makes them seem like an incredibly daunting task, but it really is not so long as you prepare and follow these tips:

1. Find Your Notes- Finding all of your notes that you took, or handouts that you received from your teacher, is a great way to start studying. Keep them all in the same notebook or put them all in one folder to keep them in one spot so you have easy access to them.
2. Study Periodically- This is probably the most important tip, and that is to study according to a schedule. Instead of just studying when you can, try to plan out specific points in time for when you can study. Studying regularly will help you to settle into a groove and make it feel like a more natural part of your day or week. Also, the sooner you start studying or reviewing, the better as you will be able to better memorize and understand the material you are studying.
3. Try to Not Stress Yourself Out- Stress plays a large role in our life, and balancing it properly is essential to studying successfully. Studying hard and regularly is important, but one cannot study properly if one is over stressed or if other facets of one's life are not up to par. This includes getting adequate sleep, eating healthy, or at least eating, and trying to maintain a good peace of mind. To combat stress you should take it easy or take breaks every 15 minutes to half an hour to stay focused and prevent yourself from getting overly stressed. Lastly, try hard to not neglect your daily workload, such as homework, school, extracurricular, etc.
5. Study with Friends or Ask Teachers for Help- Your friends, more specifically your classmates, are great to study with as they are often your age and take the same classes as you. Teachers are a similar case as rather than taking part in a class with you, they actually teach the lesson to you and are the most reliable source of information from which you can get help with your midterms. Lastly, ask students in a higher grade than you, or even alumni, with help as they most likely have prior experience with the class you are taking or specific midterm you are preparing for.
6. Use all Your Tools to Your Advantage- As stated in the previous point, you friends and teachers are viable tools as they too are exposed to the material that you are studying for your midterms. However, you have many tools in addition to those in your life such as the Media Center. Going before or after school is a great way to study with others and take off some stress or go directly to a teacher for help. Furthermore, the internet is a great source of information, so long as you find a reliable source of information, as it has countless articles on scholarly topics and databases for things taught in high school.
7. Make a Comprehensive Study Guide- This does not apply to everyone reading this, but making an easy to read and detailed study guide can sometimes help a lot, making the difference between passing and failing.
8. Put Your Midterms into Perspective- Finally, put your midterm exams into perspective. They account for 20% of your first semester grade and only 10% of your overall grade. These are small percentages for sure, but not insignificant as they can still have a big impact on your overall grade.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!

The Side of Apple That You Never Knew

By: Eryk Baginski

Apple is a famous multi-billion dollar company that supplies the latest technology to the world. Over the past year many customers, who have older iPhone versions, have been dealing with random shutdown problems and slow performance with their iPhones. Apple has finally addressed the problem and apologized for their lack of communication and straightforwardness on this issue and promised to be more transparent with their customers in the future.



Many conspiracy theories have been floating around the web that Apple has been intentionally slowing down iPhones for various reasons. These theories were confirmed when Apple admitted to slowing down iPhones through iOS updates. Many have speculated that Apple is deliberately slowing down older generation iPhones to put in effect their shady economic agenda of increasing the sales of newer generation iPhones, but whatever the reason is, Apple has apologized and promised to be more open about these changes. Apple wanted to fix a shutting down issue which caused phones to randomly die. iPhones were hitting peaks of process power that the battery couldn't sustain so it caused the phone to shut down. Apple added power management features to iPhones to balance power spikes. Apple stated that the slowness in performance results from updating the operating system which installs new software and other technology that requires a lot of power and old aging batteries which cause the phone to die earlier. In addition, Apple intended to slow down the performance to balance out the peak power overloads that would shut down the iPhone and save battery life. Because of the secretive actions taken by Apple, many class action lawsuits were filed against them for not warning the customer that the changes would drastically affect a phone's performance.

Apple is doing three things to make up for their mistakes and regain the network of trust and loyalty that they had with their users. First they are "reducing the price of an out-of-warranty iPhone battery replacement by \$50," so the price went down from \$79 to \$29. They are also going to "release an iOS update that will add new features that will give the users more visibility into the health of their iPhone's battery, so they can see for themselves if its condition is affecting performance." Lastly, they assured us that their team is "working on ways to make the user experience even better, including improving how we manage performance." Hopefully, Apple can regain their lost trust with customers by being honest with them. Despite these recent events, the future looks promising and one can only imagine what new technology and software Apple will create.

Class of 2022

Congratulations to the following gentlemen on their acceptances to Cathedral Prep!

Nicholas Abernethy, Anik Amin, Frank Angerano, Tomasz Baginski, Ethan Baijnauth, Peter Baltaian, David Bernatowicz, Mikhail Bieglarion, Matthew Bonora, Amado Buffamante, Derek Bustillo, Colin Byrne, Anthony Caracci, Iker Cardoso, Kevin Chauca, Zachary Chotkowski, Charles Ciliberti, Ryan Curran, Anthony Cuzo, William Dagostino, Nicholas Defrancesco, Xerxen Deguzman, Gabriel Delaserna, Stewart Deleon, Carmelo Delorme, Christopher Donowski, Cyrus Dsouza, Matthew Duca, Mike Encalada, Gavin Escalona, Emmanuel Faustin, Joseph Fitzgerald, Brendan Foley, Matthew Gallagher, Vincent Gallagher, Andrew Gibowski, Robert Gilfeather, Branden Gotay, Joshua Grados, Charles Greenwood, Oscar Gremplewski, Matthew Guerrero, Gregor Guerrier, Michael Hammack, Gabriel Hernandez, Nathaniel Jaquez, Joshua Jara, Timothy Kiley, Brandon Klages, Robert Klub, Joshua Lall, David Leibman, Robert Lesser, George Linn, David Lizano, James Lockhart, Edward Lysaght, Matthew Malde, Philip Anthony Marbid, Matthew Marten, Justin Mateo, Shane McEvoy, Liam McGarvey, Alexander Mejia, Jose Mella, Angelo Meshanski, Andrew Mora, Eoin Moran, Sean Moran, Jhon Milo Nunez, Carlos Orellana Estrada, Dominick Papandrea, Keenu Zander Paulino, Michael Pierre, Santiago Pinzon, Ryan Plut, Mhelvin Prangan, Evan Quinn, James Reyes, Michael Rhodes, Nicholas Rhodes, Juan Rico, Edwin Rivera, Mauricio Rivera, Steven Rivera, Innocenzio Rizzuto, Jason Rom, Thomas Ronconi, Brandon Rosa, Manuel Roxas III, Jeshua Ruda, Logan Ruiz, Jean Carlos Saez, Izaiah Santiago, John Sapia, Philip Schmidt, Trevor Singh, Angelo Stratigakis, John Stravalle, Jean Suarez, Scott Szczypczyk, Dinal Thrimanna Hettige, Ricardo Timothee, Christian Torres, Lorenzo Trovato, Gabriel Valverde, Oscar Vasquez, James Walker, Nicholas Wayne, Sam Wooding, Andrew Zalot, Geovanny Zambrano.

Andrew's Amazing Art (a.k.a. AAA) By: Andrew Chalmers



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Alexander Lomas, So.
Rob MestrAndrea, So.
Michael Guarneri, Fr.

LOVE GURU #3

By: Christopher Pham

1. What happens when someone asks me if I'm seeing anyone?
I automatically assume they're talking about a psychiatrist.
2. What is one of the beneficial reasons for having a girlfriend?
To buy that Justin Bieber album you always wanted and pretend you are buying it for your girlfriend.
3. How did the farmer find his wife?
Tractor.
4. Have you ever been fishing before?
I only ask because I really think that we should hook up.