



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

Parish and Community
Outreach

Spring 2017

Bishop Celebrates Annual Mass for People with Disabilities

www.stcatherinecenter.org Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, joined by Msgr. Tom Powers, vicar general for the diocese, celebrated Mass with a church filled with family members of the 19 young people, St. Catherine Center board members and staff, Knights of Columbus Honor Guard and friends of St. Catherine Center. Bishop Caggiano, in his homily, made the distinction between happiness and joy. "The third Sunday in Advent is about joy and encouragement," said Bishop Caggiano. "Joy is a lasting feeling that these young people today will have for the rest of their lives. Today we are witness to the healing power of Jesus and the message of joy and hopefulness," he concluded.



"This annual Mass reminds us that all are welcomed in our Church," commented Helen Burland, executive director of the center. "Each of us must work to encourage the full participation of all people in the life of our parishes and the diocese."

A mom of a First Communion recipient shared, "I never expected this to be possible. My

From the desk of Gail Mikolsky

Welcome to the first edition of the Parish and Community Outreach ministry NEW quarterly newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide ideas, events, helpful hints and information as a resource for inclusive ministry and special needs in catechesis. Many of you are doing wonderful things in your parishes and here is a great place to be recognized. I want to hear from you. I'm planning on including articles: Behavior Management, Catechesis and Inclusion, Catechesis for Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorders or ADHD in the Classroom. Please call or email your thoughts and suggestions of things you would like to see here.

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MY MASS GUIDE

All children learn most effectively with examples that relate to their own experience and some absolutely require it. The pages are designed for you to insert the digital pictures of your parish church to develop a personalized mass. Send the pictures to me and I will insert them and publish the book to be used for individuals with various disabilities during mass.

My Mass Guide



Mardi Gras Dance for Adults in our Community

Thank you to the St. Andrew's Teen Volunteers, Knights of Columbus Council from St. Patrick's Church and the Columbiettes who made the evening magical for all who attended. There were over 125 partiers who dined on pasta and meatballs and danced to the music of DJ Herb Ramirez. Thanks to St. Pius X Parish and Fr. Sam for hosting us in their beautiful community room.



Upcoming Events

May 3, 2017 6:30 PM

Dr. Eric Frazer: *Evidence-based Psychological Treatment for Children and Adolescents*
Saint Catherine Academy.
(See Page 2)

May 5, 2017 6:00 PM

Adults With Special Needs Dance
St. Pius Church, Fairfield

November 5, 2017

Special Needs Mass at Holy Cross
Church, Fairfield

Check This Out!

Saint Catherine Center website with information for:

- Catechists
- Pastoral
- Parent Corner
- Events

Does your parish have or want...

- Mass Buddies/Mass Mentors
- Parent groups-Disabilities Coming Together
- Inclusive Family Masses

Please let me know and we can announce it or work together to make it happen in your parish.

Classroom Tips

- It is okay & fair to make accommodations and modifications for individual students with disabilities. These might include adjustments that are instructional, behavioral and/or environmental.
- Do everything you can to forge a collaborative relationship with the parents
- Provide a welcoming classroom environment for all students.

Evidence-based Psychosocial Treatment for ADHD Children and Adolescents May 3rd 6:30 PM. 760 Tahmore Drive Fairfield CT 06825
Admission is Free. Please RSVP to Brian Farrell-203-540-5381 or bfarrell@diobpt.org

Please join us for a presentation on *Evidence-based Psychosocial Treatment for ADHD Children and Adolescents* by Dr. Eric Frazer. Dr. Eric Frazer is a licensed clinical psychologist with a specialization and academic concentration in Forensic Psychology. He has been conducting psychological evaluations over 15 years. Areas of specialization include forensic psychological evaluations and forensic consultation for family, criminal, and civil matters.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. Frazer holds an academic appointment of Assistant Clinical Professor at Yale University School of Medicine and teaches seminars on various topics related to psychological assessment. In 2013, he was appointed Senior Advisor on School Threat Assessment and School Safety-Yale Behavioral Health/Yale University School of Medicine.

Evidence-based Psychosocial Treatment for ADHD Children and Adolescents

Behavior therapy and behavior modification is one of the most effective components of treatment for symptoms of ADHD as a primary diagnosis, or secondary to developmental disorders such as ID or autism, in addition to stimulant medication. The presentation will begin with a brief overview of assessment procedures and common instruments used for assessment of ADHD and whether or not the symptoms of ADHD are caused by other pediatric or developmental conditions. This will be followed by a review of effective psychosocial treatments that include parent training, school intervention, and child intervention.



Saint Catherine Academy, founded in 1999, has delivered on its mission to serve students ages 5 through twenty-one who are intellectually challenged who seek an alternative educational placement. The Academy is a state-approved school of the Diocese of Bridgeport founded on Catholic principles while accepting students of all faiths.