



## SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

### *Celebrating Catholic Schools Week*

Each year, Catholic Schools Week is a special time at Saint Catherine Academy as we come together to celebrate the value of a Catholic education. This year's theme, "Normal Lives, Called to Holiness," reminded our students and staff that holiness can be found in the everyday moments of life through kindness and service to others.

Throughout the week, each day featured a different theme that allowed students to express themselves in fun ways. Students dressed in costumes, favorite hats, and fun socks, and even showed their school spirit by wearing apparel from their favorite sports teams. We also enjoyed social activities, including an ice cream party, a pasta party, and a prayer service that brought our community together in fun and faith. These moments provided wonderful opportunities to discuss how we can live out holiness in our daily routines and interactions.

"We are proud to be a faith-filled school community," said Lisa Lanni, Director of Education. "We thank God for the many blessings of our school and for the joy our students bring each day."

Catholic Schools Week served as a meaningful reminder of the blessing of being part of a faith-filled environment where students are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. It was a week filled with joy and gratitude for the gift of Catholic education at Saint Catherine Academy.



Catholic Schools Week 2026

Catholic Schools: Normal Lives, Called to Holiness

*Celebrating the Season with  
the Church of Assumption*



The Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs community joined the Church of the Assumption in Westport for a wonderful holiday celebration filled with fellowship and festive cheer. This special gathering offered our young adults the opportunity to socialize outside their daily program and connect with others.

The evening was filled with music, dancing, games, and a shared meal that brought everyone together. For many of our young adults, events like this are not only fun but also important opportunities to build confidence, practice social skills, and feel a sense of belonging within the wider community. Ms. Laura Grozier, our Executive Director, and Ms. Lisa Lanni, our Principal, joined in the festivities and spent the evening alongside our participants.



A magical moment of the night came when Neil Harding, the grandparent of one of our adult participants, arrived dressed as Santa Claus. This special guest brought extra smiles, laughter, and holiday spirit. Thank you to Mr. Harding for making the evening even more memorable for everyone in attendance.

We are grateful to the Church of the Assumption for hosting such a joyful and thoughtfully planned celebration. We extend a heartfelt thank you to Father Cyrus Bartolome, Cathy Romano, and Steve Baumann, along with all the parents, caretakers, and volunteers who gave their time to ensure the evening was a success. Our appreciation also goes out to the Knights of Columbus of Westport, who provided teddy bears to be presented as gifts from Santa for each person.



Moments like these remind us of the power of community and the importance of coming together. We look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate and socialize together in the future.

## *Welcome to our New Student and Adult Participant*

We are happy to welcome two new members to the Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs family— Anton (AJ) in our Academy and Kelvin in our Adult Day Program. Both have already begun to make their mark on our community in special ways.

AJ has been settling into Mr. Jim's classroom and is becoming more comfortable each day with his new peers and staff. It has been wonderful to watch his confidence grow as he joins in classroom activities and explores his new school environment. AJ has enjoyed going shopping with his class and participating in Halo's Café.



In our Adult Day Program, Kelvin has adjusted quickly and with a great attitude. He is a fast learner and has recently begun vocational training. We are looking forward to taking him to more outings and helping him continue to build his skills and independence. Each morning, Kelvin brightens the day by warmly greeting his peers and welcoming them with a smile.

We are so grateful to have AJ and Kelvin as part of our community. We can't wait to watch them continue to grow, form friendships, and thrive here at Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs.



# THANK YOU



*Thank you to Paul Miller Nissan for nominating Saint Catherine Center for the Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association (CAR) Grant. We are grateful to CAR for selecting us as a recipient. We are grateful to both for your support of our mission and the community we serve.*



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