



ST. PAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Contact:

Melissa Lindquist
St. Paul Catholic High School
1001 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010
Phone: 860.584.0911 x30
<http://www.spchs.com>
mlindquist@spchs.com

St. Paul Catholic High School Announces 53rd Commencement Exercises and its Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Bristol, CT – May 16, 2022 – Commencement exercises for the Class of 2022 will be held on Tuesday, May 24 at 6:30 pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Hartford. A celebration of the class will be held with family, friends, faculty, staff, and administration. The valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2022 will give their commencement speeches that evening as well.

The St. Paul Catholic High School Class of 2022 valedictorian and salutatorian were announced last week at St. Paul's annual Academic Awards Night. Gillian Smith '22 has been named Valedictorian of the Class of 2022. Gillian has chosen to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY in August where she will major in mechanical engineering with a focus in sustainability.

She is the daughter of Brenda and David Smith of Southington.

Gillian received a Summa Scholar award which represents the top 5% of students within the Archdiocese of Hartford. She holds the office of Vice President for the National Honor Society, co-editor of the yearbook, is involved in Student Government, the Data Analytics and Math Team, Spanish Honor Society and Blue Key Club. She played softball all four years and was a two-year captain. She managed to balance her academic, club and sports responsibilities throughout her four years at St. Paul very well.

Her advice to students, "Try new things even if it might seem scary. It will help you to find something you are passionate about, or to simply gain new experiences."

Gillian's favorite class at St. Paul was CAD (computer aided design). "This is where I first found my passion for engineering and design. I loved being able to go to the class and challenge myself with each design we did, especially our Truck Crane project in CAD 3."

Gabriel Duncan '22 was named Salutatorian of the Class of 2022. He is the son of Steven and Kim Duncan of Torrington.

When asked about what advice he would give to a St. Paul student, he said "Find a healthy balance between hard work and leisure, since too much of one can create potential struggles leading to undo stress or idleness."

Gabriel held the position of class President all four years, was a member of National Honor Society, Student Government and participated in baseball, basketball and track and field throughout his years here.

One of his favorite classes at St. Paul was Filmmaking, "I was able to express my creativity through video and audio and I enjoyed being able to establish my own scenes and develop my own style of a storyline."

He recently was recognized as an Archdiocesan Summa Scholar.

Gabriel will attend University of Connecticut in Storrs this fall majoring in Engineering.

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St. Paul Catholic High School, established in 1966, is a coeducational secondary school of the Archdiocese of Hartford, serving over 400 students from over 35 communities in central Connecticut, China, and South Korea. Our vision, to be a truly great Catholic high school, is achieved by living our core values of Faith, Character, Community, Excellence, and Service.

For more information, or to set up an interview, please contact Melissa Lindquist in the Office of Advancement at 860-584-0911 x30 or mlindquist@spchs.com.