

# **COLIN MURRAY REPEAT AS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION AT THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC INVITATIONAL**

**AUGUST 24, 2024**

**68 Degrees**

Divine Child started this season with a young team for the 2024 Cross Country season at the Michigan Catholic Invitational. With the departure of Robert Modrzejewski and Ethan Lewis to graduation, we lost experienced runners. Also, with Matthew Fuqua playing football, along with Gabriel Luncioni and Liam Godin deciding to play Golf, plus Christian Howarth and Sami Saraya deciding not to run cross-country this season, our team has been totally revamped.

We started our season by placing 7<sup>th</sup> at the Michigan Catholic Invitational held at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, Michigan. Our own Colin Murray (Sr) repeated as the individual champion with a great time of 15 minutes 53.30 seconds, breaking the meet record by .10 second, which was held by former Divine Child runner, Anthony Hancock.



**Colin Murray - 2024 Champion**

Murray ran the first 2 miles right behind Kalamazoo Hackett's junior Marek Butkiewicz before deciding to push pass him for the victory. He came through the one-mile mark at 5:02.71 and the two-mile at 10:10.32.

Winning the team championship for the first time was Jackson Lumen Christi with 58 points, by defeating the defending champions, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central who were runner-up with 81 points. Followed by Lansing Catholic, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 103 pts.; Grand Rapids Catholic Central, 4<sup>th</sup> - 111 pts.; and Kalamazoo Hackett, 5<sup>th</sup> – 143 pts. Divine Child finished with 176 pts.

Colin Murray continued the dominance of Divine Child winning the individual race as this was the eighth straight year Divine Child won the individual championship. He joins previous DC runners, Michael Hancock, Anthony Hancock and Michael Hegarty as individual champions.

Butkiewicz took second with a time of 16:00.7. Rounding out the top seven were Jackson Lumen Christi senior Isaiah Dinverno, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 16:21.2; Grand Rapids Catholic Central senior Jeb Hillary, 4<sup>th</sup> place – 16:24.7; Jackson Lumen Christi senior Leo Swager, 5<sup>th</sup> place – 16:54.9 and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central senior Drew Abbott, 6<sup>th</sup> place – 17:00.3; and placing seventh, Grand Rapids Catholic Central sophomore Mitchell Dunlap – 17:03.7.

After Murray, rounding out Divine Child's top seven are: Senior Nicholas Nakic (25<sup>th</sup>) – 18:26.30; senior Tamer Zahr (47<sup>th</sup>) – 19:22.30; sophomore Joseph Arriola (49<sup>th</sup>) – 19:29.60; sophomore Brendan Miller (54<sup>th</sup>) – 20:27.90; freshman Landen Bermudez (57<sup>th</sup>) – 20:36.30; and, junior Samuel Corak (67<sup>th</sup>) – 21:42.40.

Divine Child ran without two of their top seven runners, Jacob Borowicz (Fr), who is recovering from a mild calf injury and Maximiliano Juarez who was taking the S.A.T.

Once again, in the Junior Varsity race, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central who won with 27 points, edging runner-up Jackson Lumen Christi with 39 points. Placing third was Lansing Catholic with 58 points. Divine Child J.V. only had four runners and was unable to score.

Winning the junior varsity race was Detroit Catholic Central, Gavin Tisch with a time of 17:38.00. Tisch dominated this race as he won by nearly a minute in a half. Rounding out the overall top seven are: Lansing Catholic, Carson Potter (2<sup>nd</sup>) – 18:56.30; Jackson Lumen Christi, Peter Soltis (3<sup>rd</sup>) – 19:05.80; Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Donal Nurkala (4<sup>th</sup>) – 19:20.90 and Joseph Schmitz (5<sup>th</sup>) – 19:29.70; and Jackson Lumen Christi's Colin Moran (6<sup>th</sup>) – 19:36.30 and Jude Wentzloff (7<sup>th</sup>) – 19:38.50.



**Zachary Barszczowski (#568) at the One-Mile Mark**

Divine Child only had four runners in the Junior Varsity race. Freshman Zachary Barszczowski (17<sup>th</sup>) – 20:09.20; freshman Connor Chittaro (44<sup>th</sup>) – 22:33.40; junior Conor VanBuhler (47<sup>th</sup>) – 22:48.90; and sophomore Nicholas Sargent (52<sup>nd</sup>) – 23:09.50.

Divine Child is scheduled to run Thursday, August 29th at 3:00PM in the **Downriver Watermelon Run** at **Elizabeth Park** in Trenton, MI. Followed by the **Erie-Mason Six-Mile Relay's** at **Erie-Mason High School** on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30PM.