

# ***St. Philomena Catholic Church***

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Msgr. Michael C. Bliss, Pastor

## **RELEASE DATE:**

Thursday, May 26, 2022

## **ST. PHILOMENA & ST. MICHAEL HOSTING FUNDRAISING RAFFLE TO BENEFIT SISTER PARISH IN HAITI**

*You could win \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$500 in cash prizes and help feed impoverished schoolchildren*

**MONTICELLO, IL and BEMENT, IL, May 26, 2022** — St. Philomena Catholic Church in Monticello and St. Michael Catholic Church in Bement are pleased to host a raffle through Saturday, September 24 with a goal of raising \$5,000, or selling 500 tickets, to benefit Our Lady of the Assumption Church, their Sister Parish in Domond, Haiti through the participation in the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (PTPA).

“With a desire to help our impoverished brothers and sisters spiritually and financially, St. Philomena and St. Michael partnered with Our Lady of the Assumption Church late last year through the PTPA,” says Monsignor Michael Bliss, Pastor of St. Philomena Catholic Church & St. Michael Catholic Church.

“Through the generosity of parishioners and community members, the parishes have raised—to date—nearly \$17,000 to provide daily meals for an entire school year to 100+ Haitian students in Kindergarten through Third Grade at the parochial school.”

The proceeds from tickets, which can be purchased online for \$20 per ticket or \$100 for six tickets through [this online link \(https://www.osvhub.com/st-philomena-s-church/forms/raffle-tickets\)](https://www.osvhub.com/st-philomena-s-church/forms/raffle-tickets) or in person at St. Philomena Catholic Church at 1301 N Market St, Monticello, will help feed students enrolled in the 2022-2023 school year as well as provide meals to additional children as the parochial school expands to offer Fourth Grade.

“Providing a hot meal at school, sometimes the only full meal these schoolchildren will receive in their day, is of critical importance to our partnership,” says Monsignor Bliss. “According to the World Food Programme, Haiti has one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the world with nearly half the population, including children, needing immediate food assistance.”

The cash prizes from the fundraising raffle are \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$500, and the winners will be drawn and announced at the 2022 Fall Festival at St. Philomena Catholic Church on Saturday, September 24. The winners of the fundraising raffle do not have to be present to claim their prize.

In addition to this exciting raffle fundraiser, St. Philomena Catholic Church in Monticello is collecting aluminum cans throughout Piatt County and beyond.

“All neighbors, near and far, are encouraged to donate aluminum cans; you do not need to be a parishioner to contribute to the cause,” says Monsignor Bliss. “To make your donation, drive through the parking lot behind the church and place your cans in the aluminum can receptacle with the Cans for Haiti banner.”

An aluminum can receptacle will also be placed soon at St. Michael Catholic Church at 332 S Macon St in Bement.

Your donation of 27 cans, or 77 cents, will feed one student one meal at the parochial school— together, we can make a difference.

To learn more about the Sister Parish partnership with Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Domond, Haiti—connect with St. Philomena, Monticello & St. Michael, Bement on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StPhilomenaStMichael) (<https://www.facebook.com/StPhilomenaStMichael>), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/stphilomenastmichael/) (<https://www.instagram.com/stphilomenastmichael/>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/StPhilStMikeCC) (<https://twitter.com/StPhilStMikeCC>) and look for the “Twinning Tuesday” posts.

To purchase fundraising raffle tickets, visit [this online link](https://www.osvhub.com/st-philomena-s-church/forms/raffle-tickets) (<https://www.osvhub.com/st-philomena-s-church/forms/raffle-tickets>) or St. Philomena Catholic Church at 1301 N Market St in Monticello.

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