

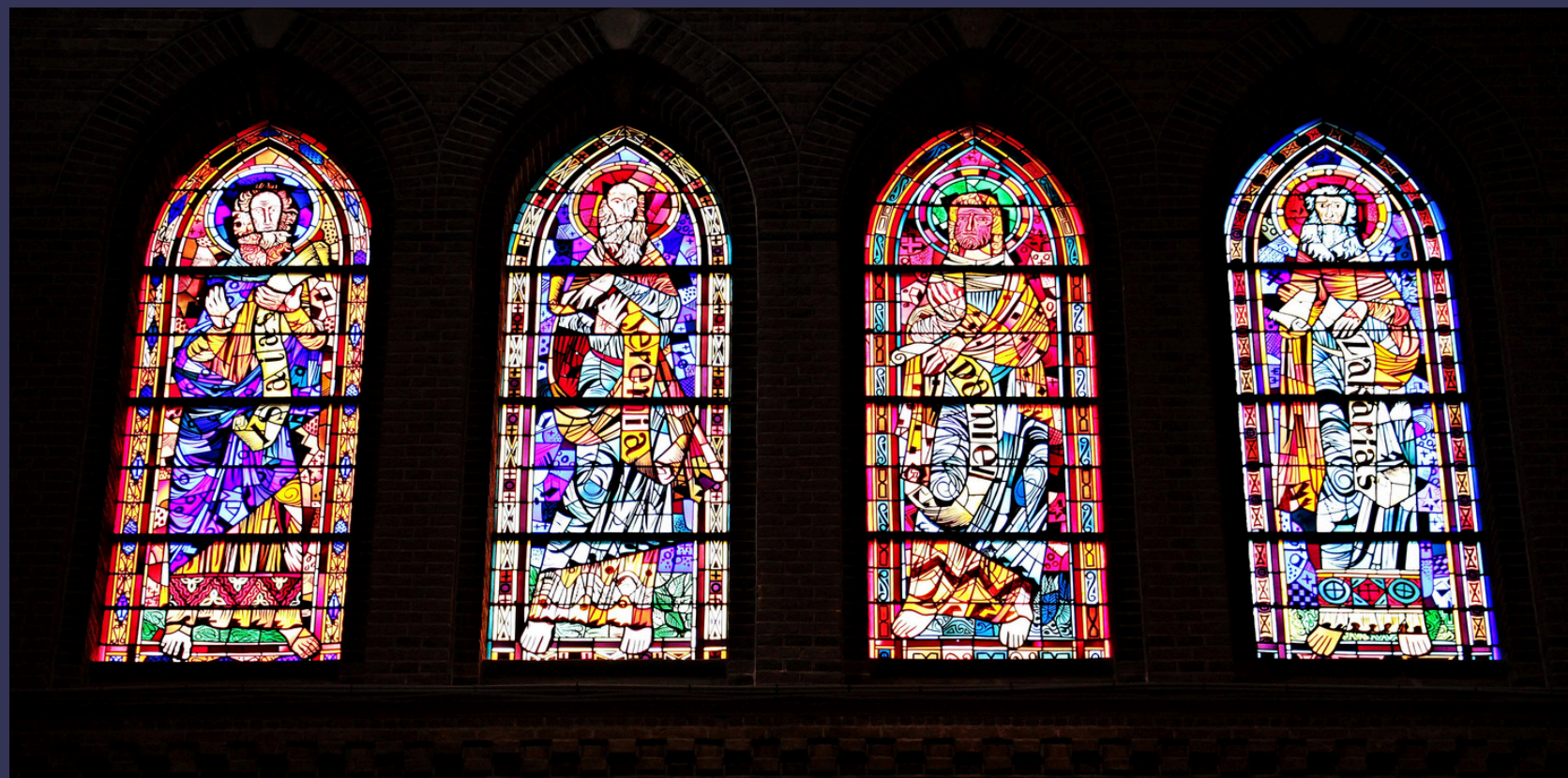


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# KEEPING THE FAITHFUL SAFE

How Churches Can Support the Rights of Immigrant Parishioners



**EMILY JONES, ESQ.**

Legal Director  
New Americans Initiative

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[www.naiky.org](http://www.naiky.org)



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# AGENDA



## 1. Relevant Law and Policy Updates

- US Constitution
- No more Sensitive Locations Memo
- Section 1324

## 2. Best ways to Support

## 3. Preparedness

- What to do if ICE shows up at your parish
- How to best help families

**All people have rights under the U.S. Constitution.**

**WE THE PEOPLE**  
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.





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## No Sensitive Locations Memo

On January 20, 2025, Trump rescinded a policy that protected certain areas, such as churches, schools, and hospitals from immigration enforcement actions. ICE agents now have the power to take enforcement actions in any of these locations.



## 8 USC SECTION 1324

In response to another executive order, the Department of Justice has issued a memo on increasing immigration-related prosecutions, specifically under Section 1324.

## What is Section 1324?

Federal law that criminalizes several things someone might do to try to help another person come to or stay in the United States without authorization. Criminal penalties include fines, imprisonment, or both.



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## WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE CRIMINALIZED?

**SMUGGLING**

**TRANSPORTING**

**HARBORING/SHIELDING/  
CONCEALING**

**ENCOURAGING/INDUCING**

## Examples of activities that my parish can participate in to support immigrants' rights that steer clear of potential criminal liability



Adopting a policy of nondiscrimination at your place of worship and of welcoming and helping persons in need, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, race, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation, etc.; making a public statement regarding such a policy.

Adopting a policy that respects privacy by not asking members of the congregation, or members of the public who interact with the congregation, about their immigration status, and adhering to a policy of not recording any information about any individual's immigration status.



## Examples of activities that my parish can participate in to support immigrants' rights that steer clear of potential criminal liability



Providing shelter, food, or other services to a broad set of people, including citizens and noncitizens, regardless of immigration status.

Speaking out on behalf of immigrants' rights, and expressing support for keeping families together and reforming the immigration laws to make it possible for undocumented immigrants to adjust to a lawful status. Supporting or working with local and state governmental authorities to adopt legislation and regulations that protect immigrants and refugees.



## Examples of activities that my parish can participate in to support immigrants' rights that steer clear of potential criminal liability

Referring undocumented immigrants (or all persons your congregation is serving) to legal assistance resources, including pro bono immigration legal help. Holding legal information (or “know your rights”) sessions, hosting legal clinics, and making referrals for social services.

Exercising the right to refuse to consent to law enforcement officers coming into or searching non-public areas of the church, and demanding to see a lawful warrant signed by a federal judge.

Creating a rapid response team to document what happened in a raid, gathering information to support legal or public education efforts.

Accompanying a person to an ICE check-in or immigration court



## **IF ICE shows up at your parish, what do you do?**

- Designate U.S. Citizen parishioners to be the first to communicate with suspected officials/ICE personnel.
- Ask the ICE personnel to identify themselves and the legal basis of their request.
- If no, legal basis, deny entry.
- If yes, review documents presented.
- Make copies of the documents presented by ICE.
- Look at any warrants closely. See next slide.
- Send copies to the parish attorney to review.
- They may be able to review the subpoena to determine if it is sufficient.
- Follow the parish attorney's instructions.



# WARRANTS

## JUDICIAL WARRANTS

Judicial warrants must be signed by a judge and will say U.S. District Court or Commonwealth of Kentucky at the top.

Police are allowed to enter the home/workplace/school of a person on the judicial warrant if they believe that person is inside.

## ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANTS

Administrative warrants or Form I-205 Warrant of Removal/Deportation may be signed by someone but will say U.S. Department of Homeland Security on top.

Administrative warrants do not allow for immigration or police officers to enter a home/workplace/school without consent



# HOW DO WE BEST PROTECT OUR PARISHIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES?

1. Make a parish plan.
2. Provide information and resources.
  - Know Your Rights Presentations for your congregants
3. Encourage proactive steps.
  - Preparedness Plans
    - [We Have Rights Plan](#)
    - [IRLC Step By Step Plan](#)
  - Special Power of Attorneys
  - Passport Acquisition for U.S. Citizen children
4. Provide a safe space and counseling.

# THANK YOU & QUESTIONS

