

What should I do if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Protection (CBP) agents come to the parish during Mass

Step 1

- Greet ICE/CBP agent and be respectful. Understand that they may be there for valid reasons. Remind them that they are interrupting a sacred celebration and that they are on private property. At this point, the ICE agent(s) does not have consent to enter/search/seize anyone or anything. The parish priest/staff are not required to give consent or share any information with the agent.

Step 2

- Ask them for the purpose of their visit and obtain proper credentials and documents. The ICE agent(s) must present you with their badge and a warrant to conduct a search, seizure, or arrest inside the parish. At this point, parish priest/staff are not required to give consent or share any information with the agent.

Types of warrants

- **Administrative:** This warrant does not give ICE officials authority to enter a place where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, without consent.
- **Judicial:** an official court order signed by a judge that authorizes a search of private property, seizure, or arrest based on probable cause that a crime is being committed or has been committed. It will specify the following:
 - Your parish address to be searched
 - The time in which the search must take place
 - Description of the place or person, or both, to be searched and things to be seized
 - This type of warrant is issued by a court and signed by a Judge

Step 3

- **If an invalid (administrative) warrant is presented:**

Kindly notify them that they will need to return with a judicial warrant, and you would like them to leave quietly and peacefully. If they wish to proceed, DO NOT interfere with the agent.

- **If a valid (Judicial) warrant is present:**

Remind them that they are interrupting a peaceful and prayerful gathering and politely ask if the execution of the warrant can wait until after the service has ended. If they wish to proceed, DO NOT interfere with the agent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

01.



PLACE A SIGN IN FRONT OF THE PARISH THAT CLEARLY STATES THAT THIS IS A PRIVATE PLACE OF WORSHIP.

02.



AT EVERY MASS, HAVE A DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE, OTHER THAN THE PRIEST, WHO WILL INTERACT WITH THE ICE AGENT(S). INTERACTIONS WOULD INCLUDE:

- Greeting the agent at entrance of the church
- Determining the purpose of their visit
- Obtain proper credentials and documents
- If the agent(s) decides to proceed with the search, seizure, or arrest, the interaction should be recorded on video.

03.



IDEAL CANDIDATES TO BE SELECTED FOR INTERACTION WITH ICE AGENTS ARE:

- Members of the parish who have a legal background (attorneys, paralegals, court reporters).
- Members of the parish who have worked in law enforcement
- Members of the parish who serve at every Mass (ushers, greeters, ministry leaders).

04.



CONDUCT BRIEF TRAINING WITH THE SELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

05.



IF AN ICE/CBP AGENT SHOWS UP AT YOUR PARISH, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE DURING OR AFTER THE INTERACTION:

- Msgr. Lopez
- John Andrews
- Wilfredo Aguirre