December 2025

Friends in Christ,

No matter one's political or non-political affiliation, there is no question that we stand for honoring the dignity of every human being. In light of the recent ICE raids and incursions that have created much fear and collateral damage to our fellow human beings and their right to live without fear, I invite us to seek love, compassion, and mercy for all. I invite us to acts of kindness, love, and support for those who feel unsafe in our community.

I have reached out to CRIS (Community Refugee and Immigrant Services; https://www.crisohio.org/), and they are seeking donations and volunteers. The community engagement director also told me that many of the immigrant-owned businesses in our area need our support (see the list below). CRIS will add a page to their website in the coming days to share additional ways we can support our refugee and immigrant neighbors. I also reached out to WARM (Westerville Area Resource Ministries https://warmwesterville.org/), where the community engagement director shared that many people cannot get food because they are living in fear. WARM is looking for volunteers to serve as "proxies" to help deliver food. WARM will also update needs and opportunities in the coming week.

This is a time of proactive love in action and prayer as we seek to show up for all those in our community who are seeking compassion and love, including the immigrant, refugee, gay, transgender, black and brown, old, and young, those living with disabilities, and those seeking belonging. St. Matthew's has always been a community of action and prayer for the sake of all God's children. Let us continue to respond as best we can in these days that call us to our better angels. See the list of establishments you can support. Stay tuned for other ways we can love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Let us love as Jesus loved,

Fr. Joseph

Support Immigrant-Owned Businesses

Let us support local immigrant-owned businesses. You can help by shopping at immigrant-owned stores, eating at immigrant-owned restaurants, and spending time at immigrant-owned coffee shops.

Here's a small list of options in the Westerville/North Columbus area to get you started:

Accra African International	5266 Cleveland Ave, Columbus,
Aswaq Baladna	5565 Cleveland Ave, Columbus,

Bakaro International Grocery	2600 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43231
Bamboo Garden Asian	Bamboo Garden Asian Kitchen
Bantama Africa Market	1505 Schrock Rd, Columbus, OH
China Garden Buffet	79 W Schrock Rd, Westerville, OH
Foodateria Kenyan &	2492 Home Acre Dr, Columbus, OH
Fusion gyro (Halal food)	Fusion gyro (Halal food)
J&S Supermarket	6867 Flags Center Dr, Columbus,
Lucky House Chinese	Lucky House Chinese Restaurant
Mashawee Stop	117 Westerville Plaza, Westerville,
Mehak Indian Kitchen & Bar	5720 Cleveland Ave, Columbus,
Salam Market & Bakery	5644 Columbus Square, Columbus,
Sierra African Market	5766 Kathy Run Ln, Columbus, OH
Toro Meat Market	1405 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43229
Yasmin International Market	5444 Cleveland Ave, Columbus,
Yemeni Restaurant	Yemeni Restaurant

Groceries

- Saraga International Grocery, 1265 Morse Rd, Columbus
- Dayou International Market, 885 Bethel Rd, Columbus
- Yasmin International Market, 5444 Cleveland Ave, Columbus
- La Michoacana, 939 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus
- Toro Meat Market, 1405 E Dublin Granville Rd, Columbus

Restaurants

- Mashawee Stop **https://mashaweestop.com**

- Drelyse African Restaurant **https://drelyserestaurant.com/**
- Yemeni Restaurant **https://yemenirestaurant.us/**
- Bibi's Patties **https://www.bibispatties.com/**
- Safina World Restaurant **https://wanderlog.com/.../4504588/safina-world-restaurant**
- Addis Restaurant **https://addis-restaurant.com/**
- Ranchero Kitchen **https://rancherokitchen.com**
- Foodeteria **https://foodateria.com/**
- Taqueria Guadalajara **https://taqueriaguadalajara.website/**
- Lavash Cafe **https://www.lavashcafe.com/**
- Dakshin Indian Bistro **https://dakshinohio.com/**
- Family Restaurant and Bakery **2151 E Dublin Granville Rd # K, Columbus**

African Coffee Houses

- Marib Coffee House **https://maribcoffee.com/**
- East African Coffee House **https://www.eastafricancoffeehouse.com**
- Qamaria Yemeni Coffee **https://www.qamariacoffee.com/**
- Shibam Coffee **https://shibamcoffee.com/**