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Archbishop Hanus to celebrate Mass in Postville Saturday

WATERLOO -- Dubuque Archbishop Jerome Hanus will celebrate Mass in English and Spanish at St. Bridget Church in Postville on Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

Hanus will travel to Postville for the service in the wake of the federal immigration raid at the Agriprocessors meat plant in Postville that resulted in the detention of 390 people.

The Postville raid and federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency actions "highlight once again the need for comprehensive immigration reform," Hanus said earlier in the week. "Families have been disrupted; parents and children are filled with fear. Many are uncertain whether their loved ones will be arrested, imprisoned indefinitely or deported."

The Dubuque archdiocese covers the northeast quadrant of Iowa and includes Postville.

"This state of terror for families is evidence that our political system has not adequately addressed the demand for labor, the inadequacies of our present immigration policies and practices, and the broader economic challenges," the archbishop said.

"Some of the weakest members among us are bearing the brunt of the suffering, while legislators and other leaders, as well as many of us in the general public, have failed to give this issue the priority that it deserves," Hanus said.