

ASSUMPTION
Blessed Virgin Mary
PARISH

December 23, 2020

Dear Assumption Parish Community,

This morning Fr. Patrick notified me that he had tested positive for COVID-19. He began experiencing symptoms last night, and received a rapid test today, which returned a positive result. He will be quarantining outside of the rectory until cleared according to the specific guidelines of the health department and CDC. Anyone who is determined to have been a close contact of Fr. Patrick during the time of concern (after Sunday evening) has been notified separately already and provided with quarantine instructions.

Fr. Patrick celebrated Assumption's 6:30 a.m. Masses on Monday and Tuesday of this week, and distributed Holy Communion there. At each of the Masses, as with all of our Masses at Assumption Parish, he maintained at least 6 feet of distance from others with the exception of the moment of distributing Holy Communion. He wore a mask when distributing Holy Communion, and washed his hands immediately before distributing. Due to the protective measures in place, the St. Charles County Health Department does not believe that there is cause for concern for anyone who attended these Masses. However, if you did attend either of these Masses, please monitor yourselves and your families for any symptoms of COVID-19. If you begin feeling symptoms, please contact your doctor. If your doctor recommends that you receive a COVID-19 test, contact your local health department, and please let me know so that our parish can take the necessary precautions.

Due to the timeline of this case and protective measures in place in our parish community, the health department has assured us that there is very low risk for any other members of the community and parish staff, and no further actions are needed at this time. Out of an abundance of caution, Msgr. McCumber and I will receive a rapid COVID-19 test on both Christmas Eve Day and Christmas Day prior to celebrating our Christmas Masses. If any results are returned positive, appropriate measures will be taken per health department and CDC guidelines. Should this be the case, we will share the update with all of you as quickly as possible.

Our parish and school continue to follow the guidelines and directives of the St. Charles County Health Department in all parish and school activities—and your health and safety remains the highest priority. I will share any additional important updates regarding this situation with all of you. If I can be of any assistance to you or if you have further questions, I will make every effort to help. You may also find updates and resources from the Archdiocese of St. Louis regarding COVID-19 at archstl.org/coronavirus.

A copy of this notification is being provided to our school community as well. Please keep Fr. Patrick as well as our entire Assumption family in your prayers as we continue through this challenging time. I continue to pray for all of you.

Sincerely,

Fr. Nick Kastenholz
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