

Fr. Elmer Heindl

Fr. Elmer Heindl was born on June 14, 1910 and ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1936. When he retired as Pastor of St. Joseph's Weedsport in June of 1980, he came to St. Charles Parish and was quick to point out that he retired from administration, but not from being a priestly servant in the community and he did that every day for 96 years. He continued to serve the people of God, especially the people of St. Charles Parish for 26 years. We were all fortunate at St. Charles to have a priest of tremendous compassion, enthusiasm and energy.

Not only do we remember Fr. Heindl during our annual golf tournament, but we can also take a moment to enjoy the Heindl Victory Garden on the corner of Dewey Ave and Maiden Lane. The American flag that flies in the garden symbolizes our freedom and the many lives that were lost to gain and protect that freedom. Fr. Heindl served this flag and spread the message of its meaning through his dedication to the military and veterans. He made sure to attend as many ceremonies, meetings, reunions, and memorial services as God would allow him to. He said daily mass at St. Charles and visited the sick of the parish. Fr. Heindl's life was about serving others, and his message to all of us today would be to take advantage of each day God gives you. He was always full of energy and willing to do anything for anyone who needed him. Think of what a difference each one of us could make by going the extra mile for someone in need, showing we care by making a phone call or a visit, or just being there to listen to someone in need. Fr. Heindl would always say it was "an honor and privilege" to be able to serve others; it was never a chore or something he was obligated to do. Every time you pass by an American Flag and you are reminded about its meaning, remember Fr. Heindl and how blessed we are all to have had him as a part of our life here at St. Charles. Most importantly we are reminded to carry out his message in our own way so that his legacy lives on.

***"An honor and a privilege":
what an amazing way to look at each day!***