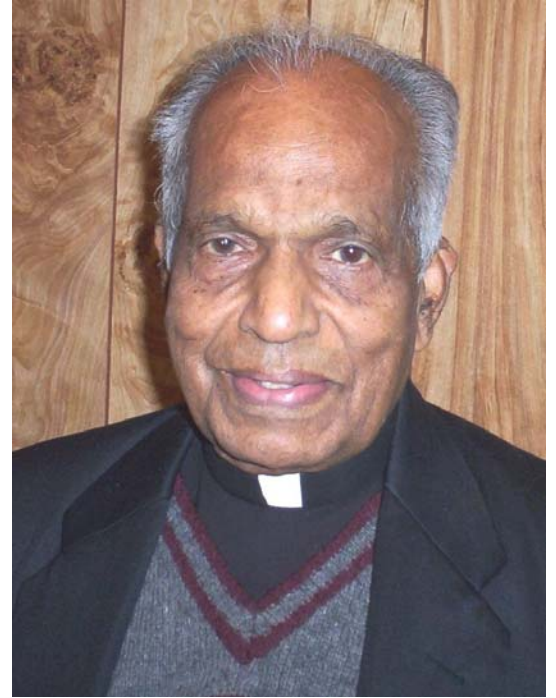


Father John Matthew Elanjileth has been an integral part of the social and religious fabric of our area for more than 30 years. Born in Kerala, India in 1921, Father Matt was ordained on August 24, 1945 by Benedictine Bishop Bernard Regno at the Papal Seminary in Candy, Ceylon.



He was incardinated into the Diocese of Pittsburgh in October , 1976. He has served as parochial vicar at several diocesan parishes including St. Mary of Mercy in Downtown Pittsburgh, St. Lawrence O'Toole in Garfield, Madonna del Castello in Swissvale, St. Joseph in Coraopolis and St. Sylvester in Brentwood. Since 1981 he has served as chaplain to UPMC McKeesport where he offers weekday Masses.

Father was assigned to St. Mary Romanian Church on March 26, 1981. When he first arrived, his parishioners wondered how he would follow in the steps of their previous Romanian pastors. But his love and humility, his devotion to his church and his personal holiness became obvious and the people knew they had been blessed with this pastor.

Father Matthew initiated the Saturday evening anticipated liturgy, bringing St. Mary more in line with other area churches. Many of these area churches, of both Byzantine and Roman rites, know Father Matthew as the priest who comes to help whenever and wherever help is needed. In addition, he has offered Mass at Auberle for many years. Father Matthew is a priest with a heart for the people he serves.

St. Mary Romanian Church is proud and privileged to celebrate the priesthood of this humble and faithful servant of God.