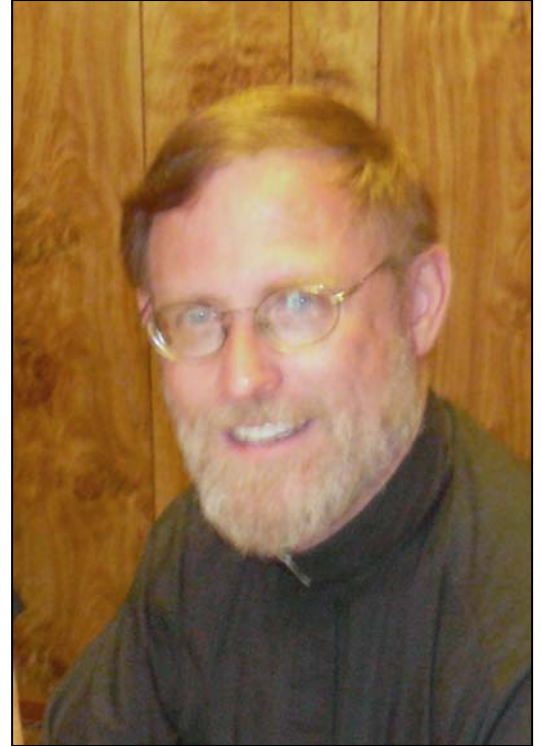


In 2006 Fr. Matthew Elanjileth retired. As this elevated him to Pastor Emeritus, he was joined by **Father Paul Volda**, who was assigned as the new administrator of the parish.

Fr. Paul was born in 1957 in the Los Angeles area, California. His parents, both first generation Americans of Romanian descent, were married in 1952 at St. Michael Romanian Catholic Church in Aurora Illinois. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance in 1981 from Cal State University, Fullerton. Then for the next sixteen years he had various business careers and gradually became more involved in parish ministries in both Roman and Byzantine Catholic parishes. His mother, Elaine, was still alive when he entered the



seminary and his father, Louis, lived to see him ordained. He entered the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh, in September 1997 and completed the course of study in May of 2001. He made two trips to Romania, living there a total of nine months. He continued to serve at St. George Cathedral (of the Romanian Catholic Diocese) in Canton, Ohio, as the assistant to the Director of Religious Education until he was ordained to the priesthood on July 10, 2005 at Holy Cross Melkite Church in Placentia, Calif. by Bishop John Michael Botean. He was assigned to St. Mary parish in Christy Park, McKeesport, PA in May 2006. Fr. Matthew became the Pastor Emeritus concelebrating often with Fr. Paul during his first year at St. Mary's. Fr. Paul started a Montessori children's catechism program called the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* in Nov. 2007 and also is starting an Adult Education program. Fr. Paul is very happy at St. Mary Parish and is looking forward to building a parish community with a truly Catholic vision of life.