



Father John Anderson is the parish priest of St. John the Merciful Mission. His journey to Orthodoxy began at a young age when he witnessed a group of monks walking past him. It's a memory he's never forgotten, though he was only six years old at the time. He saw they were men of God and that's what he wanted to be.

As a young adult, he found a book on the Desert Fathers and mothers and studied their teachings from the third to the twentieth centuries. Raised Episcopalian/Anglican, he attended church regularly, but was looking for more meaning as he got older. The words and instruction of the desert fathers created a path that brought him to where he is today.

After joining the military, Father John met his wife Sabine while stationed in Germany. At the time of their first date, he felt called to be a priest.

Father John attended seminary at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (when Father John Meyendorff was dean). After his ordination to the priesthood, Father John and Sabine moved a lot as a part of Father's career as a military officer, medic, and chaplain. He's lived in four countries, and throughout the United States.

His favorite thing about being a priest is the ability to bring people into better and healthier relationships with each other and God. What he enjoys about St. John the Merciful is that the outreach is as much a part of daily life as the liturgical celebration.

Father John and Sabine have three adult children and enjoy living in the DC/Northern Virginia area. They love meeting new people and being active and involved in the life of the mission as it grows.