

Joseph & Jannessa

2104755





welcome

Our prayer is that you feel God's abounding grace and endless love for you and the child you are carrying. The decision you are considering is profoundly brave, and we honor the strength and courage it reflects. We have never walked your path, but in our own difficult seasons we have held tightly to God's promise of comfort and wisdom: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (1 Corinthians 12:9). His grace is real, even when the moment is heavy. Your heart may ache, yet we pray your spirit may still find peace.

During our many years of marriage, we have experienced joy and disappointment, and through it all, we have chosen to center our lives on our faith in Jesus and the joy that relationship brings.

Our marriage fulfilled our longing for a best friend to walk through life with. Now, we hope to share that love with a child and offer a home that is safe, joyful, and full of possibility. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to adopt.

As the youngest children in our families, we are outgoing, people-loving extroverts who enjoy connection, laughter, and adventure. Hospitality is woven into our home, and as you read our profile, we hope you see who we are, what we value, and the life we hope to offer a child.

We have been blessed, and our deepest desire is to bless others — including your child.

With open hearts,

Joseph & Janessa



our love story

Joseph and I (Janessa) met at a Bible study. We shared friends and loved many of the same things, like live music and dancing, so our paths often crossed. One Christmas, Joseph asked me on a date, and we haven't stopped talking—or dating—since.

From the beginning, we were drawn to each other's strengths. I loved Joseph's easygoing personality and humor; he appreciated my curiosity and my love of cooking (a skill he later mastered). We both loved Jesus and deeply valued our families, who were thrilled when we got married.

Over the years, we've celebrated many milestones: Joseph earned his degree in Civil Engineering, I completed my doctorate in English, we began meaningful careers, bought two homes, and raised a puppy. We've also walked through difficult seasons that taught us how to rely on one another with grace.

One of our earliest adventures was a trip to New York City. Navigating the subway in summer—hungry and tired—taught us quickly what sacrifice and partnership look like. Since then, we've had many more adventures and faced the heartache of losing grandparents and Joseph's father.

Through every high and low, we've tried to be quick to forgive, slow to anger, and eager to show grace. Our shared interests and our faith continue to bring us together, shaping a marriage built on laughter, resilience, and showing up for one another.



A painting date night!



Hosting a party for family and friends



Touring the Colosseum in Rome



our family's values

Our family's foundation is built on faith, integrity, and love. We value God, family, freedom, and generosity, and we try to keep our commitments, honor others through our words and actions, and treat every person as uniquely created in God's image. At the heart of our home is a servant's spirit -- showing humility, compassion, and a willingness to put others first.

Service is part of our family story. Janessa's grandfathers served in the Navy during World War II and in the Army during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Joseph's grandfather also served in World War II. Their courage shaped our families, and we hold a deep love for America and embrace conservative values rooted in our biblical understanding of morality.

Our families are beautifully diverse, forming a rich tapestry of heritage. Joseph is a lifelong Missourian with Dutch and English ancestry. Janessa is originally from Minnesota, with a Puerto Rican father and an Iowa-born mother with Swedish ancestry.

Christian faith has been central in both of our families. We each came to faith at a young age, asking Jesus to forgive our sins and give us eternal life. Today, we attend a local evangelical church with biblical teaching and a vibrant children's and young adult ministry. We believe in cultivating creativity and pursuing excellence in all we do because we see both as a reflection of God's character.

Janessa

ABOUT ME

I'm often told I'm the life of the party with an infectious laugh. I love being around people and bringing joy, energy, and warmth wherever I go. Growing up in the Midwest, my older sister was my best friend, and my childhood was filled with imagination—writing stories, pretending to host cooking or QVC shows, and creating art. Visual art is still one of my favorite hobbies. Like my sister, I am musical, singing in church choirs and playing instruments for most of my life.

I was homeschooled from kindergarten through twelfth grade, which gave me space to dive deeply into reading, writing, and creativity. My love of literature led me to major in English and eventually earn a master's and doctorate in English. I later taught college composition, literature, and film, and cherished the opportunity to help students grow as thinkers and writers.

Today, I design training for thousands of financial advisors. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, painting, reading, decorating, and spending time with family. I feel blessed to use my gifts to encourage others.



Janessa painting outside



loving, faithful,
forgiving

fun facts

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Italy

FAVORITE MUSICAL ARTIST

Bob Dylan

FAVORITE HOBBY

Painting/Art

FAVORITE DESSERT

German Chocolate Cake

FAVORITE HOLIDAY

Thanksgiving

FAVORITE BOOK

The Lord of the Rings series



Janessa eating pasta in Rome



Graduating as Dr. Janessa



Girls' night out!

MY WIFE

Janessa

by Joseph

From the moment I met Janessa, I was drawn to her magnetic smile, bubbly personality, and radiant spirit. That spark quickly grew into a deep love as I came to know her heart.

What I love most about Janessa is her genuine interest in every person she meets. She makes people feel seen and valued. She is deeply kind, compassionate, and quick to forgive. She treasures her family and approaches the world with an open, welcoming heart. She's also an avid learner who encourages others to grow, spotting potential in people and gently guiding them toward who God created them to be.

Three words capture her core: loving, faithful, forgiving. Her Christian faith is the foundation of her life, and she lives it with a servant's heart—pairing a strong moral compass with profound grace. Whether she's excelling at work, creating art, or encouraging someone who is struggling, Janessa puts her whole heart into everything she does. Any child welcomed into our home will be surrounded by her joy and kindness.



loyal, servant-hearted,
forgiving

fun facts

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT

Boston, Massachusetts

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS

Local St. Louis teams like the Blues (hockey),
Mizzou Tigers (football), and the Cardinals
(baseball)

FAVORITE HOBBY

Woodworking and competitive shooting

FAVORITE DESSERT

Coconut cream pie, made by my grandmother

FAVORITE HOLIDAY

Thanksgiving and Christmas

FAVORITE BOOK

The Fountainhead

Joseph

ABOUT ME

I grew up in the metro St. Louis area. My family lived in the City of St. Louis before moving to St. Charles County when I was young, but I continued attending Tower Grove Christian School from first through twelfth grade.

I've always loved competition. I played high school sports and collegiate soccer my freshman year. As a sophomore, I transferred schools to pursue Civil Engineering, focusing on academics while still enjoying co-ed sports with my sister.

I'm a lifelong learner and am currently earning a master's in Systems Engineering to better understand how things work and fit together. My greatest passion is helping people achieve things they didn't think were possible. At work, I am a leader, supporting the professional and personal growth of my team. I'm detail-oriented, love problem solving, and believe my calling is to be a servant leader—guiding by example, offering mentorship, and working with integrity.

I also enjoy hearing people's stories, reading widely, and working with my hands. I recently rebuilt our closet and am now crafting custom chairs for family reading and movie nights!



Birthday dinner with friends



Sunday game night!



Woodworking at home



*Joseph in
the
Cardinal's
dugout*

MY HUSBAND

Joseph

by Janessa

Joseph is honest, kind, generous, and fun. He sees the world as full of possibility, believes deeply in God's promises, and is endlessly optimistic yet grounded, hardworking, and devoted to his faith and family.

From the beginning, Joseph's honesty, humor, and attentiveness stood out. He listens closely, remembers small details, and protects my heart with genuine care. Over our more than a decade together, he continues to make sacrifices for our family.

Everyone who meets Joseph likes him. His coworkers respect him as an intelligent, compassionate leader. His Bible study values his steadfast faith. His mother trusts his wisdom. His nieces and nephew adore his playful spirit and ability to make them laugh. He loves sports, power tools, and things that go "boom," yet he is gentle, patient, and easy going—a man of integrity in every sense.

Watching Joseph with children (and even with our Shih Tzu, Coco) shows his warmth and tenderness. I know he will bring that same steady love, joy, and devotion into the life of a child.



Going to church!



**Celebrating the Blues
winning the Stanley Cup**



Outside of our house!



**Eagle watching
in Missouri**

home sweet home



Meet Coco

We have a nine-year-old Shih Tzu named Coco (short for Coco Chanel). She's a sweet, friendly little dog who loves greeting visitors, going for walks, playing with the other dogs, and napping. Shih tzus can be stubborn, but they're wonderful with people and children, and Coco is especially gentle and flexible. She doesn't bark much, though she proudly alerts us when someone is at the door. Kids and adults adore her because she's cute, cuddly, and full of personality. Her playful, affectionate nature brings so much laughter to our home and has completely won our hearts.

We live in a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri, about forty-five minutes from the city. Between the two of us, we've lived all over St. Louis and even rural portions of Missouri, and we prefer our current suburban area for its safe, family-friendly feel, extensive amenities, and neighborly community.

Our favorite part about living in the St. Louis area is the variety of activities we have available to us, from a world-class zoo to award-winning parks to centuries-old historical sites and architecture, and even major sports teams and cultural venues to keep life exciting. Our immediate families live in St. Louis, and we have many friends and co-workers whom we see on a regular basis. Most of our weekly routines revolve around church, family, and community events.

On a typical weekend, we spend time connecting as a family by walking our dog, spending time on our patio in our fenced backyard, or running a few weekend errands. We have family-friendly outdoor spaces in our community with games, live music, food trucks, and activities, so when the weather is nice you might find us in one of those spaces. Our house is located a ½ mile away from a system of parks with trails, fishing, and playgrounds. We enjoy catching up on reading, visiting local farmer's markets, and experimenting with new recipes when we can. We also reserve time to connect with family and our church community on Sundays.

our hobbies



*A romantic walk
in Florence, Italy*

We share many of the same interests: playing games, attending sporting events, and spending time with friends and family. We also enjoy creative and intellectual pursuits like reading, writing, and making things with our hands. Janessa loves art and recently began painting outdoors ("plein air painting"), which gives her an excuse to enjoy nature. Joseph is skilled at woodworking and loves creating beautiful, functional pieces. He also recently started competitive shooting, a hobby our nephew also enjoys.

We both love cooking and trying new food, whether exploring restaurants around St. Louis or traveling for local cuisine. Our favorite culinary adventure was Italy, where Janessa fulfilled her dream of seeing Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and David, and Joseph cheered for his favorite Formula 1 team, Ferrari. We hope to return someday for a race (and more art and food!).

When we're not working, we enjoy live performances, films, and cold weather. Festivals, museums, parks, and family barbecues keep us busy close to home.



Baking cookies together



Janessa painting outside!



S'mores and curling with friends

our family traditions

Thanksgiving and Christmas are especially meaningful to us. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to pause, thank God for His blessings, and spend quality time with our families. We host the holiday each year and love creating memories while sharing what we're grateful for. Christmas is filled with cooking, hosting, and celebrating the birth of Jesus. It's also a time to remember Joseph's father, who passed away. He loved playing "Santa Claus," dressing up and showering the family with gifts—a tradition he continued with our nieces. Those memories remain precious.

We also make birthdays a priority. For Janessa, they're a chance to reflect and celebrate the people she loves, often by planning parties that show how much someone has impacted her life—always with cake. For Joseph, birthdays are an opportunity to set new goals and remember his grandma ("mawmaw"), who celebrated her birthday the day after his, usually with coconut cream pie.



Christmas Eve game night with cousins



Fireworks with Janessa's sister, nieces, and nephew



Thanksgiving with Joseph's family



Hosting Christmas in our home



*Janessa's
parents*

our extended family

Our parents and siblings live in the St. Louis area. Since Joseph's family is from Missouri, his aunts and uncles and many of his cousins are also local. Joseph has three sets of aunts and uncles and ten first cousins, most of whom are married with children of their own. Janessa's grandma, aunts, uncles, and cousins are mostly in Iowa and Florida along with a handful of other states. Janessa has three sets of aunts and uncles and thirteen first cousins, who are also mostly married with children. We both prioritize extended family and often plan vacations and holidays around visiting them when we can. Since one of Janessa's aunts and many of her cousins are in Iowa, we find ourselves there at least once a year for a wedding, the Iowa State Fair, or other family milestone events. We also frequently visit Florida to see Janessa's remaining living grandmother and her aunt and uncle.

Our immediate family is a daily part of our lives and integral to who we are. Living only a few miles from our parents, we often have them over for dinner or pop over to help around the house. Our moms love decorating and shopping and we also have made it a habit to meet up for lunch after church on the weekends. Janessa is very close with her sister, who is a professional flutist. We enjoy supporting our sisters at their classical music performances or softball games. We also love being a part of our nieces, nephew, cousins, and second cousins' lives. Our hearts are filled with family and a strong, caring network of support and fellowship.



Us with Joseph's mom



Celebrating Janessa's Cousin's Wedding



our hearts for adoption + parenting

We were both open to adopting, even before we met and got married. We knew we wanted children and to build a family and discussed our philosophy towards kids and adoption early in our relationship. Janessa has always longed to be a mother and had friends and co-workers who pursued different routes to motherhood, including adoption. Joseph always longed to be a father and had two cousins growing up who were adopted from Russia. While we have pursued becoming biological parents and fertility treatments throughout our marriage, we are both excited about the prospect of becoming parents through adoption.

Our lives are full of God's grace and blessing, and we carefully considered how adopting a child will change our current routines and create new challenges and joys along the way. In our hearts, we're ready to be parents and are secure in God's plan for this next phase in our journey.

In considering what type of child might thrive in our home and community, we're confident that our city and families are diverse and inclusive. Many of Janessa's cousins are bi-racial, and they have been very open about the range of challenges and benefits they've experienced. We both long to give a child a place where he or she can belong and still be a unique individual with a rich biology and family history of his or her own.

THOUGHTS ON OPENNESS:

We are open to whatever level of contact a birth mother, father, or extended family feels most comfortable with, keeping the best interest of the child at the forefront. This could include pictures, letters, phone calls, FaceTime, and in-person visits. We are open to up to two in-person visits each year, though we recognize that distance and travel logistics may affect how often we can meet, especially when the child is young. Regardless of distance, we would still prioritize connection through regular communication.

Our hope for our child is that he or she will have the opportunity to get to know their birth parents and biological family history. Communication is important for establishing a relationship, and we would love to be able to communicate with our future child's birth parents. More than anything, we want our child to feel a deep sense of belonging within our family and to know that he or she has a birth mother and/or father who also cares deeply for them and loves them, too. Maintaining a relationship that fosters that sense of connection, identity, and love from every part of their family is important to us.

family information

Joseph



Occupation: Leader of Project Managers

Education: Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering

Religion: Evangelical Christian

Date of Birth: 12/30/88

Date of marriage: 2/20/2016

Interests and hobbies: We enjoy games, music, cooking, reading, art, sports, swimming, film, comedy, hosting friends and family, and traveling. We love to get out in our community, meet new people, and explore new places. Reading, art, woodworking, and competitive shooting may be somewhat individual hobbies, but most of our interests are shared, which means we spend a lot of quality time together.

Home: We live in a quiet suburb often ranked as one of the "Best Places to Live" in the U.S. based on our excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and strong sense of community. Our home is at the back of a subdivision on a quiet street, and we know our neighbors well. With over 3,000 square feet of living space, our 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom ranch has plenty of space for a growing family, with a nursery just a few feet from our primary bedroom. We also have a fenced backyard and two patios with ample space to play and run, which was one of the reasons we purchased our home in 2020. The open floor plan of our home allows us to host dozens of people at a time for dinners and holidays. Our large, finished basement provides endless hours of fun for our nieces and nephews to invent new games, choreograph song and dance numbers to show the family, play pool, and have movie nights.

Janessa



Occupation: Learning Strategy Leader

Education: Doctor of Philosophy in English

Religion: Evangelical Christian

Date of Birth: 6/11/85

Pets: We have one adorable dog named Coco. She is gentle, playful, and social with family and friends. We love the furry friends in our life!

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption:

Long before we married, we shared a desire to adopt and talked openly about our hopes for building a family. Janessa has always dreamed of motherhood, and Joseph's experience with two adopted cousins shaped his understanding of adoption's beauty. While we have pursued biological parenthood, we are equally excited to welcome a child through adoption. We've thoughtfully prepared for the challenges and joys this will bring and trust God's guidance. Our diverse families and community will support a child's unique identity, history, and sense of belonging.

Childcare plans: We have a strong support system and a clear plan for childcare. In the early years, our parents are eager and able to provide regular childcare, and Janessa hopes to transition to part-time work or become a stay-at-home mom in the near future. Our older nieces are wonderful babysitters, and our siblings and close friends with children are part of our everyday lives and ready to help. We are surrounded by family who love us deeply and are excited to support and care for a child alongside us.



Thank you for taking the time to read our story and consider our family. We know this book represents only a small glimpse into our lives, but we hope it has shown you the love, faith, and joy that fill our home. We are grateful for the courage it takes to explore adoption and are honored that you would spend time learning about who we are.

Should you choose us, we promise to cherish your child, protect them, guide them, and make sure they always know their story began with your courage and love. We will speak of you with respect and gratitude, and your child will grow up knowing that your decision was made from a place of deep care.

We are ready to welcome a child into our lives with open arms and open hearts. Our families, friends, and church community are eager to embrace and support the little one who joins our home. We look forward to creating a life filled with stability, laughter, learning, and the kind of unconditional love that helps a child flourish.

No matter what decision you make, we pray you feel supported, valued, and surrounded by grace. Thank you again for considering our family and for the love you already carry for your child.

Joseph & Janessa