



*Thomas &  
Catherine,*  
AND OUR CREW



# *And I'd Choose You*

IN A HUNDRED DIFFERENT  
LIFETIMES, IN A HUNDRED  
WORLDS, IN EVERY VERSION  
OF REALITY, I'D FIND YOU  
AND I'D CHOOSE YOU.

OUR NOTE TO YOU.







# Hello!

## WE'RE SO EXCITED TO "MEET" YOU.

Our names are Tom and Catherine, and before anything else, we want to say thank you for 'meeting' us here. Although we cannot fully understand the moment you are in, we are honored you have allowed us to be part of it. No matter if you make it past this first page or not, we want you to know that we admire you so much. We admire your courage for taking the time to educate yourself on all your options, and we admire your strength in doing whatever you decide is right. We hope you feel empowered to take the time you need to decide what is right for you and your child, and as you take that time, we hope you feel seen, known, and loved. Please know that no matter what, you are in our prayers, and we love you.

We have 5 amazing children that are all extremely unique; each brings so much joy to our family, and we love being their parents! Although we already have a larger family, we all have a lot of love to give and have eagerly stepped into this process *together*.

Adoption holds a very special place in our hearts, and we do not enter this space lightly. We have been married long enough to know that life doesn't always work out the way we thought, or planned. Through our own losses and healing, we have learned that there is beauty in the ashes and purpose in the struggle. God has opened our hearts to loving a child unconditionally, and we are so excited to add another child through adoption again.

Please know that although we have not yet met, we already love you as a unique and specially created individual, and we hope you find peace in any direction you choose. Your voice is the one that matters most in the days and weeks ahead. Please know of our fervent prayers for you, and the child you carry: May you find a confidence that is sure and all the strength we know is inside you. We pray, too, you feel love poured out around you, both near and far.

*-Thomas and Catherine*

# A QUICK LOOK AT *Who We Are*

You probably only need to take one look at us to know: we are a big family! And there is a lot of noise, energy, and life that follows wherever we go. But there's another thing a big family like our has, too: a LOT of love to give. We're genuine, tight-knit, and always on each other's side.

If there were just a few other things we could tell you about us, we would want to tell you this:

1. We are dynamic. There is always lots of laughter and chatter in our home.
2. We love our faith and make prayer as a family a daily priority.
3. We have honest conversations and trust each other completely. We value each other's emotions and the many different ways we all process
4. We celebrate accomplishments, no matter how small their might seem.
5. We love being together and spend as much time together as we can. Whether it's nightly family dinners, playing games, hiking, or having big time dance party, we enjoy each other.
6. We love inviting people into our home and making everyone that sets foot in our home welcomed and loved. It's not uncommon for our kids' friends to be packed into the living room, our families crammed around the kitchen table, or all the neighborhood kids jumping on the trampoline in our backyard.
7. Our kids have a close sibling bond and are each other's defenders and best friends.







# EVERY TIME OUR FAMILY GROWS, OUR HEARTS GROW RIGHT ALONG WITH IT.

People love to tell us that we have a lot of kids, and of course, we've heard the myth that as our family grows, we have less time, energy, and love to go around, but it simply isn't true! As our family grows, so do our hearts; so do our relationships, and we are grateful for the unique bond each person in our family shares with another. Our hearts will only continue to expand.

2000

2003

04-08

10-13

2014

2015

*We met freshman year in college and became best friends.*

*We got married in front of family & friends, 2 months after graduating.*

*We had 3 children: Frederick, Jack, & Gemma and loved being parents.*

*We navigated recurrent pregnancy loss and moved toward adoption.*

*Leo was born! We met him and fell in love immediately.*

*Our youngest, Matthew, was born premature after a hard pregnancy.*



## WHAT BROUGHT US TO ADOPTION

We always knew we wanted a large family! Even when we began talking about this early on in our relationship, adoption was a part of the conversation. We have always believed that family is more than biology, but we didn't always know what it would look like for us or in our home.

We married young and were blessed with 3 children during the first 5 years. After our third child, we started suffering from recurrent miscarriages. We lost 7 babies and deeply grieved each one. After much healing, we felt our hearts returning to adoption.

Our son, Leo was adopted in 2014, and we have loved him fiercely since the moment we meet him. His adoption opened our hearts up wide, and we always hoped to adopt again.

We have prayed and moved forward as a family, and we love anticipating the future together.







*our*  
**FAMILY** *values*

THE MOST IMPORTANT "THING"  
IN OUR LIFE IS EACH OTHER.

In our family, we love unconditionally; everyone in our family will love and be loved for the rest of their lives, no matter what. We are each other's safe place. // In our family, we love a good dance party, especially in the kitchen. // In our family, we are loud, love big, laugh a lot, and love being together. // In our family, we encourage each other to be who we were made to be as unique individuals. // In our family, we put God first in all that we do.





# Meet Catherine

## THE BASICS.

I am energetic, compassionate, and loving. I am also 40 years old, 5'5 with brown hair and green eyes.

## WHAT I DO.

I'm a stay-at-home mom and LOVE the time I get to spend with my kids! I also have a small business as a florist.

## WHAT I LOVE.

Being outside // Running // Hiking  
// Listening to my kids play together  
// Travel and exploring new places  
// Playing piano // Singing // Having deep conversations with people I love

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME. I am a passionate person and a fierce defender of those I love. Being a wife and mom is my greatest honor, and there is nothing that makes me happier than watching others grow and being able to support them along the way! Creating an environment where my family can thrive is a high priority for me, and I actually redecorate the house every season in an effort to help my people relax, rest, and be restored. I feel deeply and have a tendency to wear my heart on my sleeve. I love to laugh and my friends would tell you I'm a good listener. I strive to be open, understanding, and welcoming; I believe we all need someone who will meet us where we are at. I also love my side-job as a wedding/events florist; it brings me tremendous joy to create beauty for others, and I love knowing I put a smile on someone else's face.





## MY WIFE IS THE MOST KIND AND THOUGHTFUL PERSON.

CATHERINE IN TOM'S WORDS. "Catherine was born to be a mother. She is self-sacrificing at every turn for her children - waking them up and making them breakfast, preparing their lunches for the afternoon, volunteering at their school, praying with each one and constantly reminding them how deeply they are loved. Catherine tucks each of the kids in at night and even still tells our 17 year old "good night" and that she loves him. I don't know anyone who is less stressed out by a baby crying or chaos in a house full of children. It's almost as if they bring her peace.

Catherine is a beautiful wife, inside and out, too. She inspires me to be a better husband and father. She keeps me praying and reminds me what is important in this world. I am blessed to have had 19 years with such a lovely human and I'm grateful for a lifetime together."



## I LOVE BEING A MOM

- I've been a mom for 18 years and have learned so much from each of our kids.
- I love seeing each one for who they are and watching them grow.
- I am their advocate, their support, their sounding board...and I wouldn't want it any other way!





# Meet Thomas

## THE BASICS.

I am a leader. I'm loyal, loving, and funny. I am also 41 years old, 5'10 with brown hair and green eyes.

## WHAT I DO.

I have a Bachelor's in History and work as a Financial Advisor. I enjoy helping & building hope in my clients.

## WHAT I LOVE.

Spending time with my wife and my kids // Playing golf // Hockey // Coaching my kids' sports teams // Taking the kids fishing // Relaxing days at home with my family

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME. I am an extrovert who loves to find "the next big adventure" and make people laugh, but I also enjoy quiet time at home with my family. People will often tell me that I'm a natural leader and easy to be around, and I take great joy in the fact that even my high school sons' friends want to hang out, whether that's watching golf, all hitting the course together, or chatting around the dinner table. My family is my top priority, and I love finding at least one special way to connect with each of my kids; right now, that looks like playing Cribbage with Fred, golfing with Gemma, challenging Jack to a game of Ping Pong, enjoying hockey with Leo, and playing Connect 4 with Matthew. My idea of a perfect day would be golfing with my kids, fishing on the lake, or hiking with our whole family. I love being together.





## MY HUSBAND IS THE ROCK AND LIGHT IN OUR FAMILY.

TOM IN CATHERINE'S WORDS. "Tom is truly my rock and my best friend. Since the first day I met him, he has made me feel seen, unique, and valuable, and I feel incredibly blessed to walk through life with him.

Tom is magnetic. He is extremely funny, and makes us laugh everyday. He is confident, as well, but also very humble. He constantly serves our family, by getting up early to bring the littles to school, working hard to provide for us, and loving on each of us individually. He is loyal, empathetic, strong, and devoted.

He has also always been the best father. He has a close and unique relationship with each of our children and always makes an effort to spend special time with them. My favorite time of day is when Tom gets home from work and we can all be together. We make the best team, and I love doing life with my best friend."



## I LOVE BEING A DAD

- I love watching my kids grow and sharing experiences with them.
- I enjoy caring for, protecting, and meeting the needs of our children.
- Each of our kids are so different and beautifully unique, and I look forward to loving a new and unique soul!

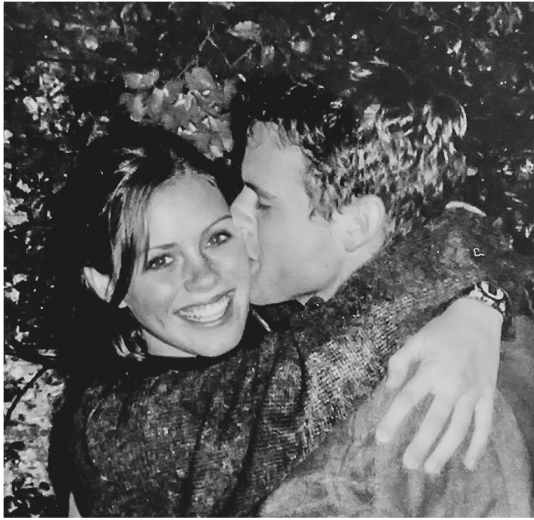


A young couple is shown in profile, facing each other and smiling warmly. The woman on the left has long, dark hair and is wearing a white top. The man on the right has short, dark hair and is wearing a grey sweater over a checkered collared shirt. They are in a bright, modern interior with white walls and a lamp visible in the background. The text 'OUR Love Story' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# OUR *Love Story*

We met our freshman year of college at a small Christian school in Ohio. Tom was from the Midwest and Catherine an east coast girl, but we quickly became very close friends, staying up late and having very real, honest conversations about life and faith. In the Spring of our freshman year, we went on a mission trip together, and it was there that we really fell in love. "I loved watching Tom shine, playing sports with the young children and serving others" (Catherine). We started 'dating' on that trip. "As soon as we started dating, I knew I wanted to marry Catherine" (Tom). A year later, Tom proposed in a beautiful little church near his family's cabin. Two months after graduating, we said "I do" in Catherine's hometown surrounded by loved ones. Together, we have walked through loss, heartache, and difficult life transitions, but we have learned to cling to one another. We're a good team, best friends, and committed to standing together for a lifetime.





# SWEET SIBLING BONDS

## Meet Our Kids



### FREDERICK, 17 YEARS

We couldn't ask for a better oldest child than Fred. He deeply loves each of his siblings and is kind-hearted loyal big brother. He is a natural leader like Tom and is also very meek, generous, and humble.

### JACK, 15 YEARS

Jack is full of life, energetic, and exuberant! He loves sports (especially soccer) and baking in the kitchen. He also loves hanging out with friends at our home and spending time with family



### GEMMA, 13 YEARS

Gemma has an incredibly huge heart. She is fun-loving, faithful, genuine, and compassionate. She is a homebody but is also very social. She loves babies and can't wait to have another sibling!



### LEO, 7 YEARS

Leo is passionate, strong, and gentle. He has a gigantic heart and is so sweet. He loves all things sports, but especially football, golf, and hockey. He loves being with his family and snuggling on the couch.



### MATTHEW, 6 YEARS

Matthew is smart, kind, and funny. He loves to build, play with cars, imagine, create and learn. He also loves to golf, make his siblings laugh, and snuggle. He can't wait to finally be the *big* brother!







## THE BOND OUR KIDS SHARE IS ONE OF THE BEST GIFTS WE COULD ASK FOR.

Our children are truly best friends, and the best part is they each have a unique bond with one another. Fred and Jack are extremely loyal to one another, and love to make each other laugh. • Jack and Gemma love to play soccer in the backyard, jump on the trampoline, and hang out together around the house; Jack is also very protective of her! • Gemma, Leo, and Matthew are very close; Gemma loves having sleepovers with her little brothers, reading to them, and building the most amazing blanket forts. • Fred and Jack are also the best big brothers to Leo and Matthew, who will take any chance to do what their older brothers are doing!

It's safe to say the newest member of our family will be surrounded with a LOT of love and support. We already know our 3 oldest will feel extra protective over their new siblings and our 2 youngest cannot wait for another playmate. This child will be adored by them as much as us.



# Our Home

HOME IS OUR REFUGE  
AND OUR SAFE PLACE

We hope our home is a place where anyone who enters feels loved and welcomed. We hope it is a place where our kids' friends, our neighbors, and our church community feel comfortable to come and "kick off their shoes". But most importantly, we hope our home is a place where our family can rest, be ourselves, feel supported, and know without a shadow of a doubt that they are safe, seen, and loved unconditionally.

OUR HOME IS OUR SAFE HAVEN AND SANCTUARY. We live in a cozy 5 bedroom, 5 bathroom home with a large fenced-in backyard and a basement where the kids can play. We love that everyone has their own space, and yet there is a lot of togetherness. Whether it's the big cozy sofa in our living room, the long dinner table outside our kitchen, or the fire-pit in the backyard, we often find ourselves congregating in the same spaces. If we're honest, it's not always a quiet home; we love our dance parties, our game night, and having friends over! We also love the piano in our living room; we often sit around, play, and sing. Our home is full of conversation and chaos, laughter and sibling disputes, blocks falling and cars crashing, dinner cooking and feet running. It's full of life and energy, and crazy as it might seem at times, we wouldn't have it any other way.







*our*  
**HOME***town*

WE LIVE IN A QUIET SUBURBAN  
NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE MIDWEST.

We live in a big city with a small town feel just outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. With excellent schools, a ton of diversity, and a strong sense of community, it is truly a great place to live, work and dream! We have lots of close friends in our neighborhood and many kids that love to come over and play basketball or jump on the trampoline in the summer. We're also surrounded by lots of parks, trails, and lakes, and we get to enjoy them all in each of the different seasons!



A photograph of three young boys riding bicycles on a paved sidewalk. The boy in the foreground is wearing a green and white patterned soccer jersey and light blue shorts. The boy in the middle is wearing a blue soccer jersey with red and white accents. The boy in the background is wearing a bright green t-shirt and blue shorts. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a residential street with parked cars, trees, and a utility pole.

# WHAT *We Enjoy*

A few of our favorite ways to spend time together include:

- Going on evening walks in our neighborhood or afternoon walks around the lakes near our home.
- Traveling - we love to visit new places and see new sights.
- Fishing, hiking, and exploring outside.
- Having make-your-own pizza and movie nights on the couch.
- Going to church on Sundays and praying as a family at night.
- Reading books before bed and playing pretend.
- Going to hockey games and the golf course.
- Visiting extended family and playing with cousins.
- Cooking and baking in the kitchen while dancing to music.
- Playing in the snow and sledding in our backyard.
- Going to the beach and playing in the sand.







## A FEW FAVORITE FAMILY TRADITIONS

Every summer, we spend time at Tom's family cabin where the kids fish, swim, go tubing, spend time with their cousins, and eat lots of s'mores by the campfire.

We spend every 4th of July going to the Jersey shore with Catherine's side of the family. There are 17 cousins, and they all love to build castles, jump in the waves, and eat ice cream. But our favorite part is watching a ton of fireworks over the shore.

In the fall, we love to go apple picking and visit the pumpkin patch. We take lots of walks and love to jump in the leaves. We also love to go to a giant corn maze and eat apple donuts. Carving pumpkins and trick-or-treating with friends in our neighborhood is also a must.

For Thanksgiving, we enjoy a big football game and dinner with Tom's side of the family. We always eat way too much, and cuddle up to watch a cozy family movie once we get home.







## WE LOVE FINDING WAYS TO CELEBRATE EACH OTHER & THE SEASONS OF LIFE.

Christmas is full of deep traditions starting with the Advent season preparing for Christ's birth; we light an Advent candle every night and say special prayers. We decorate our home with fresh greens and Christmas trees. When Christmas Eve comes, we are ready to celebrate! We go to the children's mass where our younger children are involved in the Christmas pageant, and after the service, we have a big party at our home with family, friends, lots of food, and fun. We end the night singing Christmas carols around the piano.

When it comes to birthdays, not only do we love to celebrate the birthday, but we love to celebrate the birth *month*! We honor each child for the whole month with kind words, special treats, and fun decorations to let them know how precious and special they are.

# SURROUNDED BY *The Love of Family*

A BIT ABOUT CATHERINE'S FAMILY. My family is openly affectionate, loving, and affirming. We have always been very close, and they have taught me how to find joy in the little things that life has to offer. I am the middle of 5 siblings, and between us, we have 17 children! We live all over the country but make a huge effort to see one another as often as we can.

All of the cousins are the closest of friends and we do whatever we can to help them build their relationships with each other. Every 4th of July, we go to New Jersey shore and spend the week laughing, reconnecting, making sand castles, playing in the waves, eating lots of food, and watching fireworks. It is by far our favorite week together and days we'll always remember.

A BIT ABOUT THOMAS'S FAMILY. My family is steady, faithful, and dependable. My parents have been married for 55 years, and I am the youngest of 4 siblings. We have all always been very close. Even today, almost all of my family lives close by, and we get together often for holidays, birthdays, sporting events, and impromptu dinners. Coincidentally, there are also 17 cousins on my side of the family, and everyone gets along extremely well.

My family has a cabin 4 hours north of where we live, and we take time to visit every summer. We go fishing, boating, tubing, make s'mores, tell stories around the fire, and play night games.





## OUR KIDS HAVE SOME OF THE BEST GRANDPARENTS!

The grandparents on both sides of our family absolutely adore all babies, but especially their grandchildren. They couldn't be more excited to have another grandchild and spoil them with love and affection.

The boys love to go fishing with Tom's dad and everyone loves baking with his mom; there is no one who makes better desserts than Grandma B - all the grandkids agree! Fun fact: Tom's brother is an incredible and humble catholic priest. He is very close to the kids, and they love him very much.

The kids favorite thing to do with Catherine's parents is visit their home in Philadelphia. Their granddad was in a tragic accident that left him with a severe brain injury and very childlike, yet he has shown our children how to love all people. Their grandmom is youthful, energetic, and always ready for an adventure.

### INTERESTING FACTS

- Adoption is not new to our families. We have cousins who are adopted as well as many close family friends.
- Catherine's family is very musical. She and her sisters have recorded music together and gave concerts when they were younger.





# THIS IS REAL LIFE

## *In Our Family*



We will never pretend our life is perfect or that we could paint a full picture of it on these pages. But what we do want you to know is this: we love each other something fierce, and we show it every day.

Our home is NEVER boring. Something or someone is ALWAYS going on, and we love to have fun. We sing karaoke and have dance parties, play sports in the back yard and board games at the kitchen table.



Our weekdays are filled with school, homework, and family meals. Catherine loves to cook family favorites so that mealtimes are not just about fueling but also about connection.

Weeknights are often filled with practices and sporting events, and weekends are for resting and restoring as a family after a long week. We typically make a big Saturday breakfast and do some chores.



There is always more room at our table and we constantly hosting family, friends, and neighborhood kids. We believe More People = More Connection = More Bonds = More Love in the World.





## 5 REASONS WHY WE BELIEVE GROWING UP IN A BIG FAMILY IS THE BEST!

1. In a big family, there is always a place to belong. More people in the house means there is a greater need for inclusivity. In our family, everyone is welcomed and accepted as they are.
2. In a big family, you're not quick to feel anxious or discouraged because you have enough people surrounding you that you realize *you are not alone!* Someone is there to support you.
3. 13 year old Gemma says, "I love having a big family because everyone inspires me to grow in kindness, love, and my faith. They're my favorite people to be with. I love how we never have to be someone we're not. And although we fight or get annoyed, we always forgive."
4. 15 year old Jack says, "I love growing up in a big family because it gives me a better appreciation for all the people God has put in my life. Even when times are hard, our family ALWAYS come together and pushes through. And I am never, ever bored."
5. 17 year old Fred says, "A lot of things are easier; we're always there to help each other."







# Our Promise

## TO YOU FROM THIS DAY FORWARD.

We want to thank you again for taking the time to get to know us. All of us! We are humbled that you might see in us a family worth trusting your precious child to.

If you should choose us to join you in this journey of loving this child, we want you to know that the weight of such decision is not lost on us. Just like we promise to love this child, we also promise to unconditionally love YOU and value you as the inherently worthy person you are.

No matter what may come in our lives, we promise to...

- Love and cherish this child as the gift from God that he or she truly is. Our greatest hope for all our children is that they knew they are known, seen, and loved by a gracious God.
- Do everything we can to ensure he or she grows up knowing a safe, secure and loving home. We will be their advocate, support system, and safe haven.
- Offer them every opportunity we can to learn, discover, and grow in their talents and passions.
- Honor your child's story of who they are and where they came from. We promise, too, to honor you, to answer their questions, sit with them in their sadness, and cover them with love.
- Foster an open relationship as you might desire, always letting you know how your child is growing and nurturing and of the milestones they reach.
- Keep our marriage a priority so that our children might feel secure and grow up knowing what a loving relationship looks like.
- Delight in our children, laugh a lot, dance in the living room, encourage their sibling bonds, travel together, live life to its fullest, and celebrate both the little and the big moments!

We promise, too, to be praying for you. Whatever it looks like, if our lives are joined together, you will always be family, and we will love you with our big family kind of love. All our love.

*-Thomas and Catherine*





*forthrightchild*  
ADOPTION PROFILE BOOKS