

Dear Birthparent,

First of all, thank you for choosing life and considering adoption. We truly believe that adoption is the most selfless and honorable choice, you as a parent, can make for your child. We cannot imagine the difficulty and courage it takes to make such a loving decision. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and learn about us and why we hope to be blessed as adoptive parents to your child.

We are Lauren and Matt, both 27 years old. We have known each other for 6 years and have been very happily married for almost 4. Our marriage is built on a strong foundation of faith, trust and open communication. Lauren is the oldest of four children and has one younger sister, a soon-to-be brother-in-law, and two younger brothers. Her parents have been married for almost 29 years. She is a Pediatric Occupational Therapist who works with children ages 0-3 in their homes. Matt is also the oldest child in his family and has one younger brother. His parents have been married for 33 years. Matt is an accountant



at a technology consulting firm. We live less than 5 minutes from Lauren's family and 20 minutes from Matt's, and see our parents and siblings frequently. Both of us have large extended families that also live in the St. Louis area whom we see on all major holidays and family gatherings throughout the year. We have a very energetic, 4-year old, chocolate Labrador retriever, named Bailey, and a friendly, 7-year old orange tabby cat, named Popov.

We are an active couple who enjoys spending time outdoors. We love taking Bailey on walks around the neighborhood and local parks, spending time with our parents and siblings, hanging out with our active group of friends, going out for a date night to try new restaurants, keeping up with our house, cooking new meals together, working out and regularly attending Mass each weekend at our Church. Every year we go skiing in Colorado and camping in southern Missouri with Lauren's family as well as on a weekend float trip with Matt's family. We also enjoy going on large group vacations with our extended families, typically to the beach. Matt loves playing in a men's soccer league one night a week with a group of close friends. Lauren enjoys listening to all types of music and cooking or baking with new and creative recipes.

Our journey to pursuing adoption has not been an easy one, as it has included 3 miscarriages of our own over the last 4 years, something known as recurrent pregnancy loss. Our challenges with fertility and starting a family have caused us to root deeper into our Catholic faith and grow closer as a couple. Although it has not been ruled out that we will someday be able to have biological children, we love the idea of being young and active parents and having a large family. We have always dreamed of becoming parents and passing along everything we have learned through our experiences such as treating others with respect, knowing right from wrong, being a genuine and sincere person, being a good sport, throwing a ball and swinging a bat, kicking a ball, a love for the St. Louis Cardinals, a love for God, and any future hobbies or interests our child would like to explore. We are firm believers that God has a plan for our life and that everything happens for a reason. We hope He will bless us with children, adopted or biological, for us to love and nurture for the rest of our lives. Neither of our parents have grandchildren and are so excited for the opportunity to become an adoptive grandparent. Both of our Moms are home during the daytime and can't wait to babysit while Lauren works part-time!

We cannot thank you enough for considering the option of adoption for your child. It shows true love and respect for the precious gift of life that you have made. We promise you, as adoptive parents, that our child will be loved and cared for each and every day of their life. They will also know as much about you as you would like them to, and that your choice of an adoption placement was entirely out of love for them. We appreciate you taking time and getting to know a little about us and look forward to sharing more with you in the future.

With prayers and love,

*Matt & Lauren*