

Christina Beck & Bradley Johnson Wedding

☐ The Procession

☐ The Invocation

We gather here remembering our Baptism, and do so in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please be seated.

Doubly blessed is the couple that comes to the marriage altar with the approval and blessings of their families and friends. Who has the honor of presenting this woman to be married to this man?

(Jackie & David Beck answer, kiss Christina and returns to their seats.)

☐ The Introduction *(Christina & Brad Face Me)*

Dear friends and family, with great affection for Christina and Brad, we have come here to witness their marriage vows they make this day in the presence of God, according to His Will.

The uniting of these two persons in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort they give one another in prosperity and adversity, and that their love may be a blessing to all whom they encounter.

Let us now witness their promises to each other and surround them with our prayers, giving thanks to God for the gift of marriage and asking God's blessing upon them.

So With great joy, all of us present here, along with our family Saints in heaven, rejoice with God at this wedding of Brad & Christina.

Thanks be to God for all his Blessings.

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

On this special day, Brad & Christina would like to pause and remember those dearly beloved family & friends who could not be with us in this garden

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today.

Among those we remember today are....

Christina's Grandfather Vito Dentamaro

Brad's Grandfathers Raymond Batz, Rev. Carl Thrun, & Richard Johnson

Brad's Grandmother Eileen Batz

Brad & Christina think about you always, they talk about you still. You have never been forgotten, and you never will. They hold you close within their hearts and forever there you will remain. To walk and guide them through their lives, until we meet again.

At this time we observe a moment of silence for all those saints gone before us who we miss among us today....

(A Moment of Silence)

Remember, those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed, and very dear.

Readings

We have 2 Readings today from Scriptures.

Our first reading is from the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Church of Corinth beginning in the 13th chapter. It will be read by Christina's Godmother Angie Purgatorio and she begins at the 4th verse.

Godmother?

Our second reading is from the letter sent to the Church of Colossae, better known as Colossians, written by the Apostles Paul & Timothy. It will be read by Christina's Godfather James Beck and he begins at the 12th verse of the 3rd Chapter. Godfather?

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The Unity Sand Sculpture

Today we gather with friends and family to celebrate the love and union of Christina and Brad as they make a lifelong commitment to each other.

Brad and Christina, today you are here to join both of your lives together as one. These two separate vases of sand symbolize your separate lives before you found each other. They symbolize your separate friends, family, and choices.

Today, both of you will seal your bond by blending these two individual vases together. Once the sand is blended together, it cannot be separated. Just as the sand cannot be separated, your friends and family are here today to witness your love never separating.

By blending these sands together, we are recognizing the importance of blending two families together. May you always honor and protect your family.

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The Message

It is now that time in the ceremony for “The Message”. I can already see Brad stiffen. This Message may be a bit different – because it will be interactive – so you two need to stay on your toes! Ready?

Bradley! Who Are You? (You) Who Am I? (Me) Why? (We’re the same guy!) Well, that’s true only for about the next 10 minutes, Brad....

To all of you who just missed that Exchange, let me explain.... I’m sure that Jackie & David love EACH of their children equally, just as Kathy & I love our 4 sons equally, even the one down the line here with the square head! Take a look and you’ll figure out who that one is.

But ever since Bradley could talk & walk, there was an affinity that he & I shared that was a little unique. We loved many of the same things, whether it was starting fires in the fireplace, pretending we were astronauts, fantasizing about Snow White, to enjoying theatre productions like The Phantom of the Opera, or binge watching Jackie Gleason’s old Honeymooners shows, that kind of stuff.

And as a joke since he was little, I would ask him “Who are you?” And he would reply “You.”, meaning me. And I would ask “Who am I” and Brad would say “Me”, meaning him. . And then I’d ask “Why?” And Brad would say “Because we’re the same guy.” It meant that we were alike, bonded, blood, one with each other. Stupid, but something we loved doing - especially me.

But happily, I’m sure for Brad, that ends today where he truly becomes one with another and that is in you Christina. Today you are united in this mystery of marriage ordained by God himself.

The Bible is full of teachings about marriage. In the 1st book of the Bible Genesis it says in the 2nd chapter “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and

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hold fast to his wife, and they shall become ONE flesh.” ONE Flesh!

In Ephesians in the 25th verse of the 5th chapter it is written, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” And it continues in verse 32 where it comments on this theme of becoming ONE flesh and says “This is a profound mystery....” It IS a Mystery....

So, what does this mean in Today’s world? Well, a couple things come to my mind...

1. It means Christina & Brad, that starting today you are one with a partner who will share your joys, protect you from your fears, comfort you in sorrow, realize your hopes. It doesn’t mean you assume the same identity, or personality. It means that you are united as one in a sum truly greater than the parts. You will bring out the best in each other.
2. It also means hold fast and strengthen your faith! The Bible speaks of the relationship of marriage as the same relationship that Christ has with his Church. Praise God for his Blessings. Praise God for his Will that has brought you together today. Never forget that your marriage today is not what you have done but what God has done for you.

I want to share with you something About Marriage and Faith that was written by Brad’s Grandfather, Pastor Carl Thrun at a wedding he performed over 50 years ago. As relevant today as it was back in 1968....

“It takes something to make a marriage - just as it takes something to be a Christian. The two go together very well – being a real Christian and making a real marriage.

This is the way a Christian talks....

I know that I am not everything I should be. I make mistakes. I have habits that need to be changed. I need forgiveness as much as anybody.

I know that I am not perfect, but in the forgiveness of Christ who gave himself for me, I have learned to live with myself. I do not expect my spouse to be perfect either; my spouse needs the forgiveness of God as much as I do.

So together we will live with the spirit of forgiveness in Christ, and we will learn to forgive and help one another.”

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Christina, this last part of my talk today is for you. You have been the cornerstone in Brad's life since back when George W Bush was President. Kathy & I have had a chance to really get to know your wonderful family, we have seen you grow from a girl to a woman.

We're joyful that Brad has found a partner like you. Truly Joyful.

You are smart, caring, beautiful and most of all we know that you will be a great partner for our Brad. You are the kind of Woman that Lucky guys get to marry. You will make Brad a better Man.

If I have any additional advice for you both – but especially for you Tina - is HAVE FUN! Celebrate each day this incredible gift that God has given to you both – Each other. Do not take it for Granted....

So Christina, lets pretend it's 5 minutes from now and you've both just taken your vows. Got that, Understand – A little Time Travel here. Ready?

Christina – who are you? (Brad) Christina – who is Brad? (Me) Why, "Because we're the same person". You got it girl! Let's get married!
Amen

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☐ The Vows

Mr. Best Men, may I have the rings....

Christina & Brad will you please face each other.

Brad, take Christina's left hand & place this ring on her finger while you repeat after me:

I, Bradley Robert Johnson, take you Christina Marie Beck, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

Christina, take Brad's left hand & place this ring on his finger and repeat after me:

I, Christina Marie Beck, take you Bradley Robert Johnson, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part: according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you, my love and faithfulness.

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☐ The Wedding Prayer

Let us pray for Christina & Brad in their life together.....

Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure.

Strengthen Christina and Brad with patience, kindness, gentleness, and all other gifts of your Spirit as they live in the vows of their marriage.

Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with such love and joy that their home may always be a place of peace and welcome. Guide them by your word to serve you all their days.

Help us all, O God, to do your will in each of our homes and lives. Enrich us with your grace so that, supporting one another, we may serve those in need and bear witness to the coming of peace, love, and justice on earth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

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☐ The Pronouncement

Christina and Brad if you would join hands and face your family & Friends....

By the authority vested me by the County of Lake, in the State of Illinois, in these United States of America, and most importantly through the divine will of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I proudly pronounce Brad & Christina are now husband & wife. What Almighty God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

Brad, you may kiss your bride.

☐ The Recession