

# The LaGreca Journal

Volume 7

January-December 2007

Joseph & Elizabeth La Greca

2007 was an amazing year for the LaGreca's. A year FULL of 1<sup>st</sup>'s for our family! Let's see if we can capture all our activities/adventures in this year's annual Christmas Newsletter...

We kicked off the year with a weekend trip south of the border, to Mexico. Joe had some work for a client just south of Ensenada. It was a nice getaway weekend for us, and good for Joe to get some work done at the same time.



Joe and Elizabeth above a beach in Mexico.

Elizabeth flew out to Tampa for a week with HSBC for their annual sales meeting. While there, she spent a day at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football stadium with the whole sales department (kicking and throwing footballs for fun). Toward the end of January, Elizabeth headed out to Palm Springs for a "girl's weekend" with the Birchcreek gang and Joe stayed home to brew beer with the boys. At the end of January, we decided to make Tuesday night "date night" – each taking a turn to plan something to do together.

February 2007 was an amazing month for us. Along with staying busy with work (Joe's consulting), church events and weekend activities – the LaGreca's were VERY surprised and OH so excited to get a positive pregnancy test! Just after Valentine's Day, we found out we were pregnant and made the decision to keep it a big secret until we found out all was ok. We had to wait 4-5 weeks from the time we found out! It was so hard, but worth the wait to see the reactions on our family members' faces! Baby LaGreca was scheduled to arrive on October 28<sup>th</sup>.



All dressed up for the Las Vegas "Love" show.

On St. Patty's Day, we celebrated 9 years since our first date! Almost a decade – Joe says "it feels like a lifetime" and I say "I can't believe it's already been 9 years!" Towards the end of March (in order to properly celebrate Joe's birthday), we went to Las Vegas with a few friends and family members and saw the Cirque Du Soleil show "Love" – fantastic! The day after Joe's birthday, we went in for our first ultrasound and thankfully we got the best news ever – baby LaGreca's little heart was beating and all

looked great! (Our prayers were answered!)

The 1<sup>st</sup> wedding of the year for the LaGreca's to attend was at the San Diego Zoo. We had a great time, especially since Elizabeth was finally starting to feel better (after hitting the 3 month mark of being pregnant).

For vacation this year Joe had some consulting to do in Seattle and Vancouver, BC – so we decided to make a week long vacation out of the trip. We really had a great time. We drove down to Mt. St. Helen's and also spent quality time with friends up in Vancouver. Our friend, Don Grant, took us up to Whistler, the location for the 2010 Winter Olympic games.



With Don Grant on the Olympic winners podium.

To begin summer, we hosted a BBQ at the neighborhood park. Friends joined in and we played lots of outdoor games.

With summer in full swing, the first weekend in June added another 1<sup>st</sup> for us. Elizabeth's sister, Stephanie, ran the SD Marathon and we cheered her on in a few locations around town. We had our second ultrasound (at the half-way mark) and got some really amazing pictures of Baby LaGreca. This was the appointment they could have spilled the beans on the sex of the baby, but we wanted it to be a surprise. We didn't want to spoil the fun on the day of delivery! Joe "retired" from SDSU in June and started working full-time on his consulting work. At the end of the month, we saw Brad Paisley in concert for the second time, and loved it!

We spent the 4th of July in Turlock with Elizabeth's family. Lots of BBQ and fireworks. Elizabeth's good friends hosted a baby shower to help celebrate the up coming arrival of little LaGreca. Another summer activity included a day trip to a local lake in San Diego, where Joe was able to wakeboard and tube off the back of a friend's boat. Elizabeth was already very pregnant and just rode on the boat for fun. Our second wedding of '07 was in Old Town San Diego on 07/07/07.

The chance of a lifetime and great birthday gift for Elizabeth happened on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> – the LaGreca's went to the Tim & Faith concert and had amazing seats! The rest of August was filled with wedding activities for our good friends, Mark and Vickie. Elizabeth attended a local bachelorette party and Joe went to Vegas with the boys for the bachelor party. We hosted the re-



Dressed up at Mark and Vickie's wedding.

hearsal dinner at our house and kept busy on the day of the wedding, since we were both part of the wedding party. And, as if that wasn't enough for one month – the last weekend of the month was a fabulous baby shower hosted by Joe's Mom and Aunt. We had never seen so much "baby stuff"!!

Labor Day weekend thankfully did NOT include labor for Elizabeth (that would have been way too early to meet baby LaGreca). Wedding #4 and #5 were both in San Diego, only 8 days apart and Elizabeth was so big by the end of September, she wasn't really able to dance as she normally would at the receptions. But, we still had fun.

October sure arrived quickly. Hard to believe that back in February, we had just found out that we would have a baby by the end of the year. Our 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a reminder that Elizabeth was VERY, VERY pregnant (when we did our wedding dance after dinner, Joe wasn't really able to hold Elizabeth because her belly was so LARGE!) With only 4 weeks until baby LaGreca's arrival, we had SO much to do to get ready. The new windows arrived and were installed (forgot to mention all the other HUGE house projects we successfully completed throughout the year: new roof, insulation in the walls/ceiling, and the outside of the house was painted). Just 2 weeks before the baby's due date, Elizabeth stopped working and made it her goal to walk a TON in order to "help" baby LaGreca out. It didn't work as planned. Not only did the fires hit 1 week before the due date (Elizabeth was locked in her house for a week because of the smoky air), but baby LaGreca wasn't interested in coming out when planned. The night of October 28<sup>th</sup>, Joe and Elizabeth headed to the hospital so the doctor could induce labor. (Of course, this was after the pumpkins were carved for Halloween). 19 hours after being admitted



A very proud mother after a lot of hard work.



The boys asleep in bed.

to the hospital, baby LaGreca was brought into the world. A very healthy and beautiful little boy, Nicholas Charles, was born at 3:48pm on October 29<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz and 20 ¼ inches

long. Everyone's prayers were answered. Joe and Elizabeth took baby Nicholas home the night of Halloween, just in time for the last of the "trick-or-treaters."

Nicholas kept us VERY busy in November. Trying to figure out this new little being was a challenge, but we sure did LOVE that he was finally with us. We were lucky enough to have loads of



Making Italian sausage in the garage.

visitors and so many people helped with dinners. We didn't have to cook for at least the first 3 weeks. Thanksgiving was a busy weekend with 4 visitors at our house. As if taking care of a newborn and having guests staying with us wasn't enough – we made 50+ lbs of homemade Italian sausage.

Christmas time came so fast this year. It feels like only yesterday that we brought Nicholas home and he is already 7 weeks old. We picked out a tree and got it decorated – not bad with a new baby in the house!

It's so nice to take this time and remember everything that has happened in the last 12



Nicholas, Santa's little, sometimes not so happy, helper.

months. Nicholas has added so much to our family and our life together. Roscoe has taken on the "big brother role" like a champ. What a great little pup we have. We certainly have so much to look forward to in the coming year. Until then, Merry Christmas to all! Thanks again for being such an important part of our lives.

With Love,  
Joe, Elizabeth, Nicholas & Roscoe

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