



Saint Agnes

CATHOLIC CHURCH

December 24, 2023

Rev. Rayappa Konka
Pastor

Susan Flohr
Pastoral Minister

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 am

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7:00 am

Wed 8:15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays one hour prior to Mass
or by appointment (632-2541)

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9am - Noon
& 1pm - 4pm



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:11

2314 Third Avenue, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

(308)632-2541 Fax: (308)632-2146

Mailing address: PO Box 349, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0349

Website: www.st-agnes-church.com

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-Noon & 1pm - 4pm

Saint Agnes Catholic Church

Today's Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms:89

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Matthew 1:18-25



Parish Administration

(308) 632-2541 / (308) 632-2146 (Fax)
office@st-agnes-church.com
www.st-agnes-church.com

Pastor

Rev. Rayappa Konka (ext. 2)

Church Office Manager

Theresa Trevino (ext. 3)
office@st-agnes-church.com

Pastoral Minister

Susan Flohr

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Terri Calvert (ext.5)
dre@st-agnes-church.com

School Head Teacher

Mrs. Julie Brown (632-6918)
office@st-agnes-school.com

School Office Manager

Teresa Johnson (632-6918)
office@st-agnes-school.com

School Foundation

Executive Director

Isabel Moreno (632-6918)
imoreno@st-agnes-school.com

Prayer Chain Coordinator

Jean Ahrens (308-672-4632)

Music Ministry Director

Jessica Mikoloyck (308-631-6290)
jes.mikoloyck@gmail.com

The Nativity Of The Lord

Dear St. Agnes Parish Family,

"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways, in these last days, He has spoken to us through the son" – Hebrews 1: 1-2

With deep joy and gratitude, I extend to you my prayerful wishes for a holy and blessed Christmas. During this holy season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. I pray that all four of these will fill your life this Christmas and beyond.

In the midst of all our current challenges and concerns, the Love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of his son Jesus. With angles in Bethlehem, our faith moves to sing "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth." We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives.

What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to begin a relationship with the Lord. May our Lord born in Bethlehem, bless you and your families and loved ones in this blessed time of hope and grace. May Mary, Mother of the child Jesus and our mother watch over you and our St. Agnes Church and School.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fr. Rayappa Konka



This Week's Schedule

Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day Mass (9:00am)

Intention: For Our Parish

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Daily Mass (7:00am)

Intention: Wilma Kirchner by The Kirchner Family

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Daily Mass (8:15am)

Intention: †Gale Vogelin by The Schiff Family

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Contemplative Prayer (6:00pm)

Thursday, December 28, 2023

Daily Mass (7:00am)

Intention: †Fr. Donald J. O'Brien & Family by The Diocese of Grand Island

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15pm)

Friday, December 29, 2023

Daily Mass (7:00am)

Intention: Special Intention

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15pm)

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Weekend Mass (5:00pm)

Intention: Gene Schwarzkopf by Margie Rood

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Weekend Mass (8:00am)

Intention:

Weekend Mass (10:00am)

Intention: For Our Parish

December Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Times

Saturday, Dec 23rd - 5pm

Sunday, Dec 24th - 9am

Holy Days of Obligation

Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

4pm & 8pm

Christmas Day

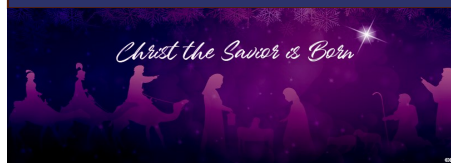
9am

New Year's Eve 8am & 10am

New Year's Day 9am

(*No 7am daily mass*)

This Week's Readings



Monday	Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Tuesday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18
Friday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, /Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-12-14, Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Finance Corner

Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

December 2023 Totals

Actual	\$12168.04
ATW	\$3495.00
Online Giving	\$2280.00
Gen. Church Support	\$3500.00
Budget	\$20000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$1443.04

Next Sunday's 2nd collection is for VCNIN

Thank you for your continued giving!

Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

Because of early transmission dates for the bulletin these few weeks, the collection report will not be published on its regular schedule

January 2024 Ministers

GREETERS & USHERS

Saturday, 5pm:

Greeters: Chad & Kelly Larson - East
Rick Denise Forsstrom - South
Ushers: Chuck Elley (Captain)
Dale VonLintel

Sunday, 8am:

Greeters: Rosalinda Sabala - East
Jason & Angie Blanco - South
Ushers: Corey Greckel (Captain)
Michael Esselstein

Sunday, 10am:

Greeters: Mark Overman - East
Tom & Mary Thompson - South
Ushers: Gale McGrew (Captain)
Jerry Arnold

SERVERS

Sat, Jan 6 5pm: Aden Munoz & Jonah Klaas
Sun, Jan 7 8am: Carson Windhorst & Easton Becker
Sun, Jan 7 10am: Traxton Adams & Nina Polk
Sat, Jan 13 5pm: Regan Schiff & Giuliana Suhr
Sun, Jan 14 8am: Kaden Blaylock & Easton Becker
Sun, Jan 14 10am: Ruby Schiff & Kellan Zulkoski
Sat, Jan 20 5pm: Asher Wilson & Solarah Gould
Sun, Jan 21 8am: Carson Windhorst & Thomas Esselstein
Sun, Jan 21 10am: Alyck Rodriguez & Claire Ascherl
Sat, Jan 27 5pm: Havynnn Urdiales & Tea Hill
Sun, Jan 28 8am: Grant Celli & Tristan Hoelsing
Sun, Jan 28 10am: William Seymour & Lillian Seymour

LECTORS

Saturday, Jan 6 5pm: Jean Ahrens
Sunday, Jan 7 8am: David Nash
Sunday, Jan 7 10am: Michael Schaff
Saturday, Jan 13 & 20 5pm: Carmen Trevino
Sunday, Jan 14 & 21 8am: Toni Warburton
Sunday, Jan 14 & 21 10am: Mark Loose
Saturday, Jan 27 5pm: Diana Rohrick
Sunday, Jan 28 8am: Nichole Hoelsing
Sunday, Jan 28 10am: Chuck Schwartz

SACRISTANS

Saturday, 5pm:
Mary Robinson
Sunday, 8am:
Bridget Peck
Sunday, 10am:
Chuck & Judy Schwartz

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, 5pm:
Ciborium - Kathleen Roehl
Travis Gould & Linda Elley
Sunday, 8am:
Ciborium - Adam Hoelsing
John Songco & Dan Marshall
Sunday, 10am:
Ciborium - Shelley Thomas
Terry Bailey & Alex Ascherl

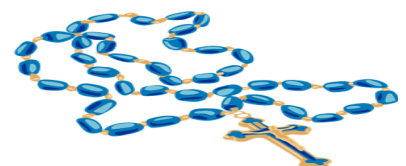
January 2024 Rosary Leaders

Sat, Jan 6 5pm: Diana Rohrick
Sun, Jan 7 8am: Claire Songco
Sun, Jan 7 10:00am: NOT FILLED

Sat, Jan 13 5pm: Jennifer Hiltgen
Sun, Jan 14 8am: JoAnn Nash
Sun, Jan 14 10:00am: Angie Hilbert

Sat, Jan 20 5pm: Jennifer Hiltgen
Sun, Jan 21 8am: Addison Peck
Sun, Jan 21 10:00am: NOT FILLED

Sat, Jan 27 5pm: Jennifer Hiltgen
Sun, Jan 28 8am: Toni Warburton
Sun, Jan 28 10:00am: Jackie Seymour



Christmas Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are placed on the altar this season are in memory or in honor of: John/Irene Konz & Kay Konz by M/M Vince Bjorling; William Grandy, Beatrice Grandy, Joshua A. Bullock, Joe Loomis & Nancy Skinner by Kathy Ann Bullock; Fr. Vince Parsons, Fr. Bob Karnish, Fr. Steven Deaver, Sr. Vera Meis & Susan Flohr by M/M Ray Murdock; Pat, Ginny & Tracy Ford, Ed, Bert, Earl, Karen Bailey & Bryan Bailey by Terry Bailey; Flohr Family & Fred Schaefer Family by Doris Flohr; Karen Koch by John Koch; M/M Daryl Arneson, M/M Harold Calvert by M/M Michael Calvert; Robert J. Reilly, Lois Reilly, Gary Reilly, Dan Reilly & Shanna Darnell by M/M Jacob Krieg; Sr. Chris Meyer, Sr. Vera Meis by M/M Gale McGrew; Rod Brooks & Rojeanne Wolfe by M/M Jeff Wolfe; Lee Tschacher, Helga Tschacher, Marlin Tschacher, Tom Montague, Realthy Montague & Bill Montague by Lynda Montague; The Priests of the Grand Island Diocese by M/M Martin Urdiales; Carol Burbach & Marie Hoeft by M/M Larry Burbach; Floyd & Mildred Colwell, Wally & Cece Allison, Esther Dobbins, Mike Alvarado, Bill & Rita Alvarado, by M/M Jordan Colwell; Stephen McDonnough by Connie McDonnough;



Castaneda Family & Shane Malm by M/M Gilbert Trevino; Richard Hawes, Gayle & Bonnie Johnson by M/M Robert Johnson; Wesley & David Flohr, Fred & Helen Schaefer, Doris Flohr by Susan Flohr; George & Grace Ramig by Rodney Ramig; Bernard & Richardis Wlaschin, Gloria Schanaman by M/M Antonio Tecson; Christine Barajas by Brian Lind; Bud & Betty Lee Neifert by M/M Mark Neifert; John Longoria & John Klaas by M/M Stephen Klaas; Ed Moore, Tom Wlaschin, Mary Nance by M/M Patrick Brown; St. Agnes Parish by Gayle Rojas; Jean Koester, Henry & Helen Koester, Don & Linda Koester, Mary Ann & Joe Beeman, John Koester by M/M Charles Koester; Gene & Mary Guenin, Gene Schmid, DL Guenin by M/M Greg Schmid; Clarence Rood Jr., Frank & Louise Marquez, Richard Saucedo, Coby Saucedo, Clarence & Doris Rood by Margaret Rood; Regino Rosario, Juana Rosario, Augustin Rosario by Rosa Rosario; Ellen Gion, Mary & Michael Gion, Lewis & Pauline Triplett by Larry Gion; Ken Cushing, Doug Cushing, Bernice Ostry by M/M Joseph Ostry; Marcia Prell, Larry & Wanda Hiltgen by Jason Hiltgen; Tom Rohrick by Margie Rood

St. Agnes Church Pew Renovation Project

The original pews at St. Agnes Church are in need of some attention. As a result, the pews have been beautifully recovered by Doug's Upholstery, a local business. In addition, new hymnal pocket racks have been installed. Further work is to be completed on supporting the middle brace of the pews, fixing kneelers and stabilizing backs. This work is being completed by another local business—Cowan's Custom Cabinetry. And lastly, the Music Ministry would like to order new Gather Music Books to replace our ageing Gather Books. The new Gather books are larger than the current volumes, thus the reason for replacing the Hymnal pockets.

- Total Estimated Cost of the entire project is \$45,000.
- Gracious Donations of \$20,000 have been received from:
 - The Church Foundation
 - The Altar Society
 - The Knights of Columbus
 - Memorials from Theresa Rezac
- Funds to finish the project: \$25,000 - which includes the final payments for Upholstery, Cowen's Custom Woodworking and purchasing the Gather Books. (Which will cost approximately \$4500.00)



Please consider donating to this project. The donation can be placed in an envelope with this form with "Pew Renovation Project" written on it. You may place your envelope in the collection or leave it at the Parish Office. Your donation to this entire project will also be recognized in the new hymnals. We greatly appreciate your donation!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

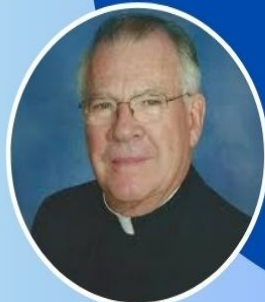
Donor Name in Hymnal? Yes ___ No ___



PERSONAL PRAYER: A DUTY, A PRIVILEGE, AND A CHALLENGE

Join us for an afternoon focused on prayer.

JANUARY 14TH AT 2:30 PM



Guest Speaker - Fr. Gerald Harr
Retired Priest of the Diocese of Grand Island



2314 Thrid Ave Scottsbluff, NE

December 2023 100 CLUB WINNERS

\$200: Linda Rutz; **\$100:** Mark/Marsha Neifert, Todd/Stephanie Lewis, Lizbeth Hernandez; **\$50:** Margaret Brannon, Larry/Chris Burbach, Dorissa Polk, Lee Trautman, Larry/Cathy Sauter, Connie McDonnough, Susan Heitman, Vince/Vicki Bjorling, Mark/Jacque Hartman

CONGRATULATIONS!



Knights of Columbus

Thank you, Riverstone Bank and Staff, for your "Truck Full of Love" and "Gift of Love" Projects, along with Cross Country Freight Solution Truck – for collecting all the toys around the community - for our biggest project of the Year - "Toys for Tots"! Special thanks to Rick Forsstrom and Pete Wylie for leading this project.

Thank you, Scotts Bluff Country Club Staff, for organizing "Toy Drive" event and thank you for all Club members that donated toys for our biggest project of the year "Toys for Tots" program! Special thanks to Scott Schiff for helping us with this project.



The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday. Please conduct any office business before Christmas.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Religious Education Program

Email—dre@st-agnes-church.com

Religious Education Office—308-635-1362

Celebrating Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Gospel: Luke 1:31-38

On the Way to Mass:

The name Jesus means “one who saves.” Listen for how often we refer to Jesus’ holy name or to Jesus as Savior during Mass.

On the Way Home From Mass:

The Holy Spirit was a part of Jesus’ birth story. How has the Holy Spirit been with you since the earliest days of your life?

Living the Word:

Make a list of all the names of Jesus you can recall. Circle the name you use most often when you talk to Jesus. Underline the name you will use in your prayer this week.

*Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families
2023-2024*



Find Us On



Parish Website

www.st-agnes-church.com

myParish App

In the App Store on your phone or tablet

Facebook

Meet the Confirmation Candidates



Morgan Celli

My name is Morgan Rae Celli. I am 14 years old and an 8th grader at Bluffs Middle School. My parents are Redo and Stacy Celli and I have a little brother named Grant who is a 6th grader. I enjoy playing most sports, but most of all volleyball, softball, basketball, soccer, and golf.

Goals for Confirmation: I'm excited for Confirmation because I want to strengthen my knowledge and love for my Catholic faith. I will continue to share my faith and time with the parish by volunteering at fundraisers, being an altar server, and with other needs of the church.



Christmas Mass Times

**Christmas Eve
4:00 pm & 8:00 pm**

Christmas Day

Add peace to Advent this year



There is no denying that it may be more challenging to find peace and joy during Advent this

year, given all that's happening around the world. Still, we know that the world isn't where we find our joy. Instead, try modeling your family celebration after the first Christmas to find more peace and joy this year.

Sweep the inn. Jesus chose lowly circumstances for His birth to encourage detachment from worldly goods. Together, choose clothing, gifts, and toys in good condition that you don't truly need and donate them to people who do. Then limit the number and value of gifts you give. This will free up attention and affection for what really matters.

Select shepherds. Although the people watching the sheep in the fields that night weren't the most successful nor the most popular in town, God chose them to greet His newborn Son. Children benefit from healthy, loving company. Accept and extend only those holiday invitations that will provide precious, loving time together.

Ponder in your heart. When her remarkable Son was born, “Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Luke 2:19) so she could savor the joy of each moment. Don't forget to savor time with your own remarkable family so that you can ponder every wonderful moment in your own heart.

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 24, 2023



The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts. but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.



PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

listed
engaged
traveled

fields
sheep
angel

Savior
heaven
peace

lsitde

l i s t e d

anleg

peeeca

enggade

seehp

hevane

trelvaed

Sivoar

feldis



MISSION

If you celebrate Christmas away from home, be thankful for the place where you sleep.



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY
JOSEPH
HOLY SPIRIT

WEDDING
ANGEL
DREAM

BABY
JESUS
VIRGIN

V I R G I N T H W I S
J C S H U J O S E P H
D R E A M R W I D A O
S O B Y A O N U D G W
M E N G R W E A I S D
T B A B Y B M O N A E
R E N D R O I T G J O
S P G O H F J E S U S
K A E I V N A G M D L
H O L Y S P I R I T Y
S R H N E D L S E H A



MISSION

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.



Connecting Students and Families through Faith
December 24, 2023



Upcoming Events

*St. Agnes Students & Staff
would like to wish you a very
Merry Christmas. May you
experience the peace of Christ
this Christmas.*



Spreading the Christmas Spirit

St. Agnes 3rd-5th grade students helped spread some Christmas cheer when they spent the morning of December 13th wrapping toys for the Knights of Columbus Toys for Tots program. These gifts will be distributed, along with food baskets, to local families for Christmas. After helping to clean used toys and shopping for new toys, it was exciting to be wrapping the gifts for specific kids to find under their tree on Christmas. Thanks to the Knights for allowing us to be part of this special project.



St. Agnes Catholic School
205 E 23rd, Scottsbluff, NE
Ph: 308-632-6918



Classroom News.....

Grinch Day

December 15th marked Grinch Day at school. Students came wearing green, Grinch hair-dos, dressed as characters from the Grinch and bearing a warm heart to keep the spirit of Christmas happy and joyful. They enjoyed green and grinch-related activities in their individual classrooms.



Polar Express Day

Christmas brings lots of extra activities, but one beloved event is Polar Express Day. The students love coming to school in their jammies, snuggling up with hot coco and watching the ever-favorite movie – Polar Express. It brings the magic of Christmas to life.



Gingerbread Creations

Kindergarten students and their parents enjoyed working together to create their own unique gingerbread houses. Each family donated an item to be used for decorating and the creative chefs went to work. Wow! Some amazing creations arose from that hour of work.



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Hot Lunch Menu for December 25th, 2023 - December 29th, 2023

<u>Monday, Dec 25</u>	<u>Tuesday, Dec 26</u>	<u>Wednesday, Dec 27</u>	<u>Thursday, Dec 28</u>	<u>Friday, Dec 29</u>
NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK
Helpers:	Helpers:	Helpers:	Helpers:	Helpers:

What's Happening at St. Agnes School.....



Pre-K Class By Nicole Boness



This month has been super busy. Pre-k had their first music program, and they did amazing! We have also been learning about Jesus' birth and learning about the true meaning of Christmas. The kids have gotten to go to Advent celebrations and partake in helping move the animals. They also enjoyed the stories that have been read by each class. The students were also surprised when St. Nick left them a little surprise in the shoe we set outside the door.

We also had Grinch day where kids got to dress as their favorite character, wear a grinch shirt, or wear grinch pajamas. They loved it and had so much fun. We made grinch hats, grinch snow globes, as well as dancing to some grinch songs. They even got to end the day by celebrating a half birthday and eating cupcakes.

Pre-k has been busy crafting, as well. We got to make elves with their pictures and hung them on our door. We also made Santa villages and created hanging Christmas lights that spelled out their name. The last day of school was filled with lots of excitement. We got to watch the Nativity presented by the kindergarten. After that we had Christmas caroling in the church. We also made snowmen, had a book exchange with one another, watched "The Star," and had a fun-filled Christmas party! I hope everyone has a wonder holiday and safe travels to all.



Third Grade Class By Meghan Calvert



2nd quarter has come and gone in a flash! December was a short but busy month. During the school Advent Journey, The Progressive Nativity, 3rd grade presented the animals. Each student had their own special part and we asked Pre-k to help us put our animals into the manger. During the month of December, we celebrated Advent by doing a directed drawing every week from the Formed.org program, Drawing Closer to God. For the last 4 weeks, Ms. Kim has taken us through the journey to the birth of Jesus. The class has drawn the advent wreath, The Annunciation, The Journey to Bethlehem, The Shepherds in the Field and finally the Nativity. The students really enjoyed this series! We also got our new class motto from this series "Do your best, and let God do the rest!"

With the help of a company called Student Treasures, 3rd grade was able to publish a book! The book consisted of short stories written by each student and then an original drawing by them as well. It was so fun to get them in the mail and see all their hard work in the completed form!

In math, we finished up unit 5. In this unit, the students learned how to decompose our equations and arrays in order to figure out our multiplication products. This is a more visual way for students to solve multiplication and get a better understanding of the number sense behind it. We finished our science unit on inherited traits and how our environment can also affect traits. Lastly, we ended the quarter with our social studies test on the branches of government. This can be a harder unit as there are so many different pieces to the government, but 3rd grade rocked it!

We ended December with our Christmas party. We did a book exchange and had a lot of delicious treats provided by parents. I

want to end this bulletin by saying I hope everyone had a blessed and Merry Christmas. I also want to thank my family, every parent, child and staff member at St. Agnes School. I graduated from UNK with my degree in Early Childhood Inclusive on December 15th, and I could not have done it without all of you and your constant support.

