**Mission Statement**

1. The Little Church Program is for parish children ages 3 through Kindergarten.
2. Little Church teaches young children about our Catholic Faith
3. Little Church promotes the religious enrichment of our young children.  Our goal is to engage every child and build his/her faith.
4. Little Church teaches unconditional love, understanding, forgiveness, acceptance all through stories and songs from the Gospel!
5. Little Church class is centered on home, family and love experiences.
6. As Jesus said in Matthew 18 v 10 "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

**Goals of Little Church**

Little Church will be split into 3 groups

1. The Angels (3 year olds)
2. The Doves (4 year olds)
3. The Shepherds (Kindergarten level)

* Give children words and tools they need to communicate about God and to God (teach children how to pray)
* Help establish children’s moral, values and standards
* Introduce the Catholic Sacraments, liturgical rituals, symbols and seasons
* Every year there will be a mini graduation for Angels to Doves, Doves to Shepherds (3rd last class – April 17, 2016)
* Second last class (April 24, 2016) will the big graduation for the Shepherds from Little Church – they will then move on to CRE classes with Jack Latharus – and move on with First Holy Communion Lessons
* To mirror weekly Gospel – teach the weekly Gospel in child appropriate language – The Angels (3 year old), The Doves, and The Shepherds (Kindergarten)
* Lesson around Gospel Reading
* Give handouts at the end of Little that Father Mike hands out to the children
* Weekly a blast email will go out to all the Lead Volunteers – with the Gospel for the week. Lesson Plan will be around the Gospel Reading

**Volunteers**

* **Fingerprinting for the Volunteers – to ensure safety of our children** ☺
* **VIRTUS Training – to build excellence & trust**
* **We will have our core group of volunteers who will lead the same group every Sunday (for consistency)**
* **We are happy to have volunteers and we will work around your busy life schedules**
* **Hours will be given for parents of SFDS school children**

**Suggest Format of Little Church**

* **10am – sign in (name tag) and SING ALONG (All groups combined)**
* **1015am – SNACK**
* **1030am – Split into groups (Angels, Doves & Shepherds)and do set lesson & craft for the day**
* **1050am – Sharing & Song before pickup (All groups combined)**
* **11am – 1110am – Parent pick up – hand out weekly bulletin**