"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

OUR PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the preschool program at St. Mary Magdalen Church is to provide a Christian education, in a warm, caring, environment for the young children of the community. The primary objective is to teach the children about the love of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our program will provide opportunities for the children to grow spiritually, socially, intellectually, emotionally, and physically, and to gain confidence in their God-given abilities. It is designed to help build a solid foundation for success in future schoolwork.

The early childhood years are an important time in the development of the child. Most of the potential for learning is established by age six. During this time, children need a stimulating environment in which they can build on their knowledge and experiences through educational play, social interaction, problem solving, exploration, and discovery. Many opportunities will be provided for the children to explore and manipulate a variety of materials. "Play" is a very important part of the preschool classroom, and much of the learning takes place through teacher-directed and self-directed play activities. Through these activities, children develop social and language skills, learn to handle their emotions, and learn about God's wonderful world.

We believe that a Christian education in these early years lays an important foundation in the spiritual life and overall development of the child. The sharing of God's love permeates all that is done throughout the day.

Three-year olds will be working mostly on social development; sharing, taking turns, following a routine, sitting for circle time, etc. because of their maturity level. We will look at colors, shapes, months, days of the week, and numbers. Four-year olds and "Early Fives" will be preparing for kindergarten. Our plan is to make the transition from preschool to kindergarten as smooth as possible.