February 28th: The Prodigal Son

- *For All Ages*
  - String Metaphor: In this activity, each participant has a string. One end of the string represents them, a follower of Christ, and the other end represents God. First, you will explain how the string represents their connection to God. Then, you will ask them to cut the string. Was it hard to do? How did cutting the string make them feel? Let them know that the cut represents a sin, or turning away from God. Once the string is cut, the connection is cut. However, just like in the Prodigal Son, it is never too late to ask for forgiveness and mend your relationship with God. Now, explain the different ways we can fix the string; through Confession, prayer, repentance, etc. Once we do this and turn back toward God, we can retie the knot and rebuild the relationship. Ask the kids- how does the string look different from before? If they don't notice that the string is shorter, encourage them to cut and retie the string 1 or 2 more times. Explain that each time we ask for forgiveness and return to God, the string becomes shorter because we become closer to God by working to improve our relationship with Him, and no matter how many times we cut the string, we can always retie it again. BONUS: for the younger age groups it might be fun for them to draw a small picture of themselves, and a small picture of a cross, that can then be taped/glued on each end of the string to give them better visualization.