

# RAISING SAINTS

CHILDREN + FAMILY MINISTRY // WEEKLY GUIDE FOR TEACHERS + PARENTS

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - RED SUNDAY

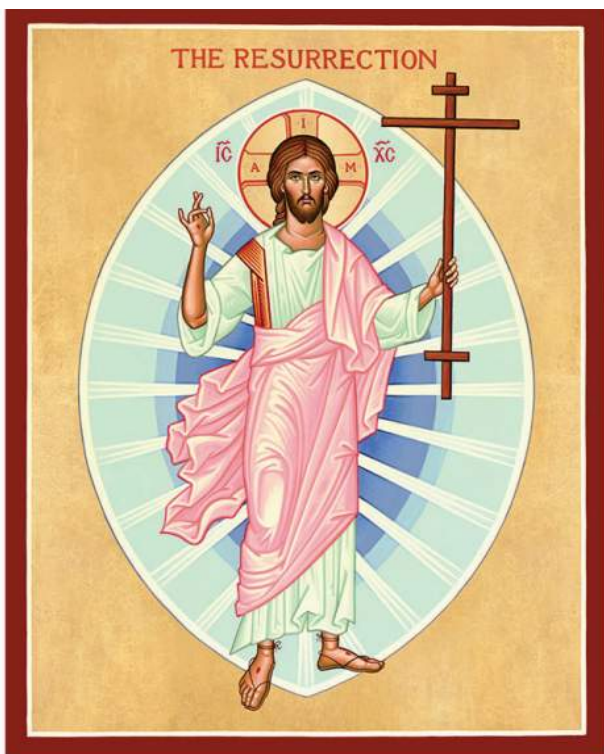
April 30 this year is the fourth Sunday of Easter, also popularly called Red Sunday. The third Sunday which fell on April 23 as the Sunday of the World Church was popularly called Green Sunday. Our Church has given these popular colorful names, because we are reminded that through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and his resurrection, we are given new life, just as in the spring new growth in colors of green leaves and red tulips and poppies are signs of a newness of life.

The color red is associated with confronting struggle. For example:

- a red cloth held up to a bull during a bullfight invites the bull to combat the man holding it.
- Our people have named St. Vartan as "garmir Vartan" to indicate that he shed his red blood for the defense of his country's freedom to worship Christ.
- Christendom depicted the risen Christ in many icons clothed in red and holding a red flag with the sign of the cross on it. The red color reminds us of the blood of Christ shed on the Cross. As Christ's sacrifice resulted in victory, our own sacrifices in this world to overcome sin or evil will result in ultimate victory in Christ.

This leads us to acknowledge the fact that life is a struggle, a constant battle to choose between good and evil, to strive to live honestly, even if it leads one to lose materially, to stand up for justice for all, and above all to embrace the hard work of loving all, despite our differences.

The community of Christian believers, the Church, gives us the opportunity to look at the risen Christ who overcame all human weaknesses and healed the fallen human nature. We have all inherited that "mutated spiritual gene" which we name as the original sin of Adam and Eve. Through his total and unconditional reliance on the love of God the Father, Jesus victoriously broke the chains which bind our wounded humanity and he gave us the hope of living in everlasting joy with the Holy Trinity in heaven when he comes again. Until then, we are on a pilgrim journey. We face many challenges, temptations, and struggles in life.



www.monasteryicons.com

Let us always turn to the victorious risen Christ who invites us to endure the temptations through God's help and join the victorious band of his faithful followers, whom we call saints.

Here is a Resurrection hymn that is sung in our Churches which reminds us of the risen Christ and simultaneously leads us to seek his mercy.

*With the angel shining bright,  
let us bless the Risen One.  
With prayers let us ask  
to be cleansed of our sins.  
With the sweet, everlasting fragrance  
of the myrrh-bearing holy women,  
let us offer incense of prayers,  
to cleanse us of our sins.*

*With the tears of the oil-bearing women, tearfully  
let us beseech the One  
who wiped our tears, to cleanse us of our sins.  
Guarded by Christ may we overcome  
the tempter, and sing with the angels,  
glory to God in the highest.*

Tone 4 Resurrection Hymn

May God bless you and the children whom God has entrusted to your care.

YN. SIRARPI AIVAZIAN

Note: The material for the children will be presented in three levels in order to make it age appropriate:  
Level 1: Ages 5-8 (K-3rd grades)  
Level 2: Ages 9-12 (4-7th grades)  
Level 3: Ages 13-17 (8-12th grades)



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