

# Saint Makarios Orthodox Church

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*We see here to the left a depiction of the Israelites carrying the ark through the wilderness. Every person in their life has a wilderness to cross, whether external or internal. Every community or Church has a wilderness to cross also. Some mistake the building for the Church and neglect that it is the community which carries the presence which is the Church, not the building. Our respect and desire for permanence and established things draws us away from our calling to be, personally and communally, the temple of God. Some feel abandoned by God because they feel the wilderness to be empty.*

*But it here that God gives the Law, shows his face, reveals his glory and demonstrates his power. This is the place of the mountain which Moses and Christ, the monk and the martyr, Abraham the offerer and Isaac the offered ascend. As a Church we must go out into the wilderness joyfully, and greet the challenges which face our hearts and our community joyfully. The Church is a camp of battle in which assaults are expected, attrition a common problem and even betrayal a normal occurrence. All this is not a cause for anger, bitterness and grief; but rather the ground of joy in which the cross is planted as the tree of life.*

*Plant your feet, not in an enclosure; but under the weight of the Glory which we carry together. God is with us: his cross, his forgiveness and his life-giving power which we only understand when we poor people reach out our hands and ask to carry Life.*

*-Fr. Elijah*

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## **Parish Notes**

**THIS SUNDAY WILL STILL BE IN CARITH. PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR NEWS OF OUR NEW LOCATION. Bond has turned out not to be a viable option any more. We are looking into several contingency plans and now will have to plan to move toward a more permanent rented or purchased location in the next year. It is very important that people come to the PARISH MEETING on February 10th (place TBA), when we can discuss plans and strategies. There are a number of important issues to consider for this next year, and the following.**

We will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple at Sunday Liturgy, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The feasts of the Lord actually last 8 days, and those of the Mother of God last 7. So it is technically not inappropriate (especially given our peregrinations) to celebrate the Feast at any point within the 8 days.

Please let Fr. Elijah know if you would still like to have your house blessed.

If you have not received a Church calendar, please let Fr. Elijah know. A printed copy can be provided to you, or an electronic copy can be sent to you, to print as you like (in color, whatever size you prefer).