



OUR LADY OF THE CEDARS CHURCH

A MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

140 MITCHELL STREET, MANCHESTER, NH 03103

TEL # (603) 623-8944 FAX # (603) 645-6017

Email: oloc.church@comcast.net

Website: www.olocnh.org

REV. THOMAS P. STEINMETZ, Pastor

RT. REV. ANDRE ST. GERMAIN (retired)

REV. ROGER BOUCHER - Weekend Ministry

REV. THEOPHAN LEONARCZYK, Eparchial Chancellor

"Enter the Church and repent ... for here is the physician, not the judge. Here one is not investigated, one receives remission of sins." (St. John Chrysostom)

July 1, 2018

**The Commemoration of the Holy Wonderworkers
and Unmercenary Physicians, Cosmas and Damian**

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Parish Advisory & Finance Council:

KEN MONTY (PRESIDENT), ROBERT ANDERSON, ROBIN ANDERSON, JOHN CULLEN,
MARTHA DAGHER, TIM ERMATINGER, KEN KOMISAREK, MARYLOU LAZOS, PAUL MANSUR,
NAJWA MOUSSOBA, JOE NEHME, MAURICE PARE', PAUL ST. GERMAIN, AND CHRISTELLE SLAYBE

Parish Secretary: ROBIN ANDERSON

Cedars Society President: MARYLOU LAZOS

Sunday School Coordinator: MARTHA DAGHER

N.A.M.Y. Advisor: ROBIN ANDERSON

HOLY MYSTERY OF CONFESSION: Before or after any service, or by appointment;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CHRISTIAN ILLUMINATION: Please contact the clergy in advance to arrange for the required baptismal instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF CROWNING: At least six months prior to the proposed wedding, please contact the clergy to arrange for the required interview and instructions;

HOLY MYSTERY OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please contact the pastor at any time when this sacrament is needed;

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: Anyone too infirm to attend our services may receive Communion in the home. Please advise the clergy whenever this sacrament is needed.

Please remember to contact the church if a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from the priest. The hospitals do not always notify the church!

THE ORDER OF TODAY'S LITURGY

The Troparion of the Resurrection (5th Tone) Page 53

Troparion of the Holy Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian (8th Tone)

O Holy Moneyless Ones and Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damien, heal us of our diseases. You have received free gifts : freely give to us.

The Troparion of the Dormition of the Theotokos (1st Tone): Page 16

Kondakion : "O Never Failing Protectress of Christians": Page 17

THE PROKIMENON:

**YOU, O LORD, WILL KEEP US
AND PRESERVE US ALWAYS FROM THIS GENERATION!**

*Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any holy man,
For truthfulness has vanished from among the children of men.*

Today's Readings: Romans 12: 6-14 and Matthew 9: 1-8

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday (June 30) 4:30 PM:

For the repose of Richard Thomas, by Gerard Villemure

For the repose of Joseph Barody (47th), Anthony Stephen (17th), Zahia George (45th),
Theodora Smit (36th), Martha Khatter (25th), and Peter Flamant (27th)

Sunday, (July 1) 10:30 AM

For the repose of the departed members of our parish
and for all of departed friends relative and loved ones



Next Saturday (July 7) 4:30 PM:

No Saturday Liturgy this week

Next Sunday (July 8) 10:30 AM

For the repose of the departed members of our parish
and for all of departed friends relative and loved ones

Altar Your Life.



Paul explained to his readers that his ministry – like that of all the apostles – involved becoming a father to them, and he was willing to do that for love of them that they might attain Christ. In the Gospel, friends brought a paralyzed man to Christ so that he could be made whole. We call our priests “Fathers”, for they are to serve us in this very necessary way. Pray for an increase in vocations to the diaconate and the priesthood for our Church.

I will be out of town from Sunday July 1 until Saturday, July 7. I will be in Houston Texas with our youth group, leading the national convention for the Melkite Youth, then attending the National Melkite Convention. While I am away, please continue to use the parish voicemail. I will check the messages regularly. - *Fr. Tom*

There will not be a Saturday PM Divine Liturgy next week, July 7, or on Saturday, July 28

Patriarchial Visit: Thursday, July 12!

On Thursday July 12, his Beatitude Patriarch Joseph Absi, Patriarch of Antioch and of All the East, will preside at a celebration of Great Vespers in our church at 6:00 PM and this will be followed by a reception in our church hall. There will not be an admission charge to this event, however it is requested that you consider making a voluntary donation, according to your means, to offset the cost to the parish. A donation of \$50 is suggested, but whatever you can give will help. A check can be sent payable to "Our Lady of the Cedars Church," with "Patriarch's Visit" in the memo.



Anyone making donations received by July 8 will be recognized in the program that will be available on the evening of the Patriarch's visit. Please also know that any money raised from this appeal that goes beyond the expenses of the Patriarch's visit will be used for the general support of our parish.

If you are planning on attending, please R.S.V.P. by emailing your name and the number attending to patriarchsvisit@gmail.com.

There is no Saturday Kitchen for the months of July and August.



Helpers are needed on Tuesday, July 10 and Wednesday July 11, beginning at 9 AM to 1 PM to clean the church in preparation for the Patriarch's visit. - July 10 for the sanctuary, July 11 for the main church. See Jeanine Notter if you can help.

Attendance - Last Sat. 4:30 PM: 28 Last Sun. 10:30 AM: 109

Last Weekend's Collection: \$1,472.⁰⁰ Mortgage: \$877.⁰⁰

The average Sunday envelope donation: \$39.³⁰

The balance remaining on our mortgage is: \$75,448.¹⁹

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Sat., July 7 4:30 PM *No Saturday Liturgy this week*

Sun., July 8 9:45 AM **Sunday Orthros**

Sun., July 8 10:30 AM **Divine Liturgy: The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**



The Holy Unmercenary Physicians and Wonderworkers Cosmas and Damian

were born at Rome, brothers by birth, and physicians by profession. They suffered at Rome in the reign of the emperor Carinus (283-284).

Brought up by their parents in the rules of piety, they led strict and chaste lives, and they were granted by God the gift of healing the sick. By their generosity and exceptional kindness to all, the brothers converted many to Christ. The brothers told the sick, "It is not by our own power that we treat you, but by the power of Christ, the true God. Believe in Him and be healed." Since they accepted no payment for their treatment of the infirm, the holy brothers were called "unmercenary physicians."

Their life of active service and their great spiritual influence on the people around them led many into the Church, attracting the attention of the Roman authorities. Soldiers were

sent after the brothers At Rome, the saints were imprisoned and put on trial.

Before the Roman emperor and the judge they openly professed their faith in Christ God, and they resolutely refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. They said, "We have done evil to no one, we are not involved with the magic or sorcery of which you accuse us. We treat the infirm by the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we take no payment for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples, "Freely have you received, freely give" (Mt. 10: 8).

The emperor, however, continued with his demands. God suddenly struck Carinus blind. The people, beholding the miracle, cried out, "Great is the Christian God! There is no other God but Him!" Many of those who believed besought the holy brothers to heal the emperor, and he himself implored the saints, promising to convert to the true God, Christ the Savior, so the saints healed him. After this, Saints Cosmas and Damian were honorably set free, and once again they set about treating the sick.

But what the hatred of the pagans and the ferocity of the Roman authorities could not do, was accomplished by envy, one of the strongest passions of sinful human nature. An older physician, an instructor, under whom the holy brothers had studied the art of medicine, became envious of their fame. Driven to madness by malice, and overcome by passionate envy, he summoned the two brothers, formerly his most beloved students, proposing that they should all go together in order to gather various medicinal herbs. Going far into the mountains, he murdered them and threw their bodies into a river.

Thus these holy brothers, the Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian, ended their earthly journey as martyrs. Although they had devoted their lives to the Christian service of their neighbors, and had escaped the Roman sword and prison, they were treacherously murdered by their teacher. Now, through the prayers of the holy martyrs Cosmas and Damian, God grants healing to those who with faith have recourse to their heavenly intercession.

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor (November 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).



Here are ways that you can help with Mahrajan 2018:

Make a donations for food!

Help us with our costs is by donating a food or ingredient. There are signup sheets in the hall, along with the cost. Envelopes are also available there, if you would like to use them. We are counting on your generosity. All donors will be recognized in our annual souvenir book.

Help us find ads!

We need ads for our Mahrajan 2018 souvenir book. This book is critical to the success of the Mahrajan. You can help us to get ads by soliciting places where you do business.

Add your own message to our book!

Please consider placing your message or memorial in the Mahrajan 2018 souvenir book – only \$100 per page!

If you grow or gather grape leaves, please help us keep our costs down by donating them to the Mahrajan. Grape leaves will be needed for the July 10, so please wash and pack them in your freezer as they become available. We need about 3,000 grape leaves so keep us in mind as the season approaches



Choral Concert at St. Joseph's Cathedral – Tuesday July 17

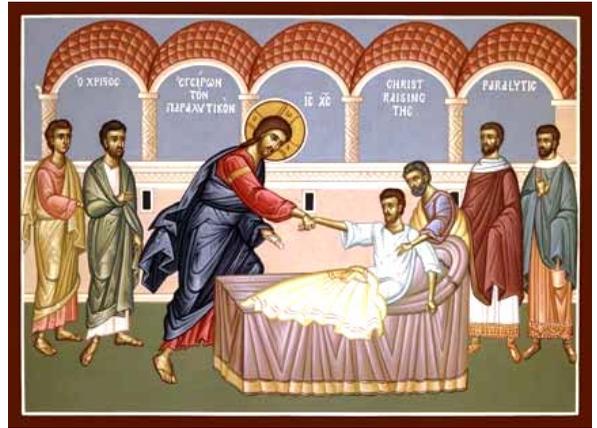
As you may have heard, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph Choir, Diocesan Festival Chorus and Saint Anselm College Choir were invited to sing in July at the Boch Center for the Performing Arts in Boston with the Sistine Chapel Choir on their coast to coast tour of the US. Sadly, the entire national concert was canceled unexpectedly just last week. Faced with the option of either abandoning eight weeks of challenging and hard rehearsals or continuing the work which was begun, 115 choristers from across the Diocese of Manchester unanimously decided to present the ten pieces in a concert at the Cathedral in Manchester. Having a concert in Manchester has the benefit of negating a trip to Boston!

You are invited to the Cathedral to enjoy this evening of beautiful, stunning and soul-stirring music on Tuesday 17 July at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for admission, but a free will offering may be made.

The choristers are cognizant that they are not singing this music for the pure sake of singing lovely music nor the desire to perform in a famous theater with a famous choir but, rather, for the sole purpose of giving glory to God. This is what the concert was supposed to originally embody and, despite its cancellation, this is what they will pursue not in Boston but right here in downtown Manchester!

The Son of Man Forgives Sins

WE READ IN MATTHEW 9: 1-8 that, when people brought a paralyzed man to the Lord Jesus, He healed the man's paralysis, but not before telling him, "*Your sins are forgiven*" (Mt 9:2). The bystanders' initial thought that Jesus had blasphemed was replaced by wonder. As Matthew described it, "*they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men*" (Mt 9:8).



The Lord Jesus, of course, was more than just a man. His full humanity was joined without confusion to the divine nature of the Word of God. He forgave sin, then, as the only-begotten Son of the Father. But the onlookers' amazement would be justified in time: God would give men the power to forgive sin, in the Church.

When the glorified Christ appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He told them, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained*" (Jn 20:22, 23). The Church was to extend the presence of Christ in the world both physically and spiritually by imparting the forgiveness of sins to those who came to it in faith.

The first place where the Church bestows forgiveness of sins is in the mystery of baptism. When we are buried with Christ in baptism we rise to a newness of life marked by deliverance from the power of sin. Infants, of course, have no sins of which they may be guilty; adults who receive baptism with repentance are freed from their past sins. As the priest announces at the eighth day removal of the baptismal garments, "you have been baptized, enlightened, chrismated, sanctified and cleansed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!"

The "Second Baptism"

The early Church recognized that believers might fall into serious sin, particularly when threatened with imprisonment and death during the Roman persecution of Christians. It began using its ability to forgive sin in a new way. Those guilty of serious sin would be reconciled to the Church after confessing their sin and undergoing a period of repentance – what came to be called the Mystery of repentance. Today we express repentance and experience the forgiveness of sins through the Church in a number of ways:

Daily prayer of repentance – For a member of Christ's Body, the Church, prayer is the most basic way to experience God's forgiveness. As St John of Kronstadt said, "Often during the day I have been a great sinner, and at night, after prayer, I have gone to rest justified and whiter than snow by the grace of the Holy Spirit, with the deepest peace and joy in my heart" (*My Life in Christ*, Part 1).

Regular Self-Reflection – Periodic, even daily self-examination helps us to see the direction of our lives. Our entire existence should be lived in the light of the Holy Spirit. We examine our actions, thoughts and feelings, affirming our true selves in Christ who has taught us to

live for God's glory and discerning where we have let sin draw us away from our true goal.

A Relationship with a Confessor/Spiritual Father – Each person is in a different place in his or her journey. We may on occasion find thoughts in the Scriptures or the Fathers that touch our hearts, but finding someone who knows you and knows the ways of Holy Tradition is like taking a giant step in the Christian life. The fullest dimension of spiritual guidance involves sharing our thoughts and yearnings, not just our sins with this spiritual guide.

Receiving the Eucharist – Several times during the Divine Liturgy we are reminded that the Eucharist is given to us “for the remission of sins.” But we must approach “discerning the Body,” as St Paul says: sensing the depth of this Mystery and our unworthiness to take part in it. And so before receiving we say the prayer “I believe, Lord, and profess” specifically asking for the pardon of our offences – the deliberate and the indeliberate, whether committed knowingly or inadvertently – so that we may receive the remission of sins and eternal life in this Mystery.

Observing the Church's Fasts - The Fasts are another liturgical expression of repentance. Rearranging our lives in obedience to the Church's weekly and seasonal fasts is a most practical way of affirming our commitment to life in Christ, a daily reminder that “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*” (Mt 4:4).

The Mystery of Confession – As we have seen, Confession was at first considered a “second baptism,” a starting over in the Christian life, when a person had committed serious sin. Over the centuries it became more widely used and is considered appropriate today whenever a person feels the need for it, particularly: When a serious sin has been committed, when a habitual sin has overwhelmed the Christian, or when a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a reorientation of priorities.

No “Cheap Forgiveness”

Some people think that for us to obtain forgiveness we simply need to say a prescribed prayer or undergo a stipulated rite without any real connection to one's heart. Obtaining God's forgiveness is not the religious equivalent of paying a traffic ticket. It requires an interior act of repentance--*metanoia*--a change of mind and heart, which must be seen in our actions.

First, we must extend to those who may have hurt us the same forgiveness we seek from God. We agree to this each time we say the Lord's Prayer: “forgive us...as we forgive.” Indeed, the Lord cautions us: *For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses* (Mt 6:14, 15).

Second, we must do something about our sin. This may mean that we make some kind of restitution: return stolen property, or try to rebuild another's reputation which we have harmed, or the like. And we must take steps to avoid repeating the same kind of sin in the future, particularly if our sin is habitual. As Cosmas the Aetolian remarked: “Even if every spiritual father, patriarch, and hierarch...forgive you, you are unforgiven if you don't repent in action.” Repenting in action means, first of all, turning to God in prayer and asking Him to deliver us from our sin. We are counseled to repeat continually the prayer of the Publican: “O God, be merciful to me a sinner!” Only God, who forgives us when we sin, can prevent us from falling into sin... and only if we continually desire Him to do so. The sincerity of our prayer to be delivered from sin is shown by how often our heart is moved to utter it.

Today's Readings:

The Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (Rom. 12:6-14)

BRETHREN, we have gifts differing according to the grace that has been given us, such as prophecy to be used according to the degree of faith, or ministry in ministering, or instruction in teaching, or exhortation in encouraging, or almsgiving in being generous with simplicity, or leadership in leading with discretion, or works of mercy in performing them joyfully.

Let love be without pretense. Hate what is evil. Hold to what is good. Love one another with fraternal charity, being the first to honor the other. Be not slothful in zeal; be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope. Be patient in tribulations, persevering in prayer. Relieve the saints' needs, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you: bless, and do not curse!

الرسالة (رومة 12: 6 - 14)

يا إِخْوَة، إِذْ لَنَا مَوَاهِبُ مُخْتَلِفَةٌ بِحَسَبِ النِّعْمَةِ الْمَعْطَاةِ لَنَا، فَمَنْ وَهَبَ النُّبُوَّةَ فَلْيَتَّبِعْ بِحَسَبِ مَنَاسِبَةِ الْإِيمَانِ. وَمَنْ وَهَبَ الْخِدْمَةَ فَلْيُلْزِمِ الْخِدْمَةَ، وَالْمُعَلِّمُ التَّعْلِيمَ، وَالْوَاعِظُ الْوَعِظَ، وَالْمُتَصَدِّقُ الْبِسَاطَةَ، وَالْمُدَبِّرُ الْاجْتِهَادَ، وَالرَّاحِمُ الْبِشَاشَةَ. وَلَتَكُنِ الْمَحَبَّةُ بِلَا رِنَاءٍ. كَوْنُوا مَاقْتِنِينَ الشَّرَّ، مُلْتَصِقِينَ بِالْخَيْرِ، مُحِبِّينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا حُبًّا أَحْوِيًّا، مُبَادِرِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا بِالْإِكْرَامِ، غَيْرَ مُتَكَاسِلِينَ فِي الْاجْتِهَادِ، حَازِينَ بِالرُّوحِ، عَابِدِينَ لِلرَّبِّ، فَرِحِينَ بِالرَّجَاءِ، صَابِرِينَ فِي الضِّيقِ، مُوَظِّبِينَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ، بِأَذْلِينَ لِلْقُدَيْسِينَ فِي حَاجَاتِهِمْ، عَاكِفِينَ عَلَى ضِيَافَةِ الْغُرَبَاءِ. بَارِكُوا الَّذِينَ يَضْطَهُدُونَكُمْ. بَارِكُوا وَلَا تَلْعَنُوا.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 9: 1-8

At that time, getting into a boat, Jesus crossed over and came to his own town. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic lying on a pallet. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven you." And behold, some of the Scribes said within themselves, "This man blasphemes." And Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" then he said to the paralytic "Arise, take up your pallet and go to your house." And he arose, and went away to his house. But when the crowds saw it, they were struck with fear, and glorified God who had given such power to men.

الانجيل (متى 9: 1 - 8)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، رَكِبَ يَسُوعُ السَّفِينَةَ، وَعَبَرَ وَأَتَى إِلَى مَدِينَتِهِ. فَقَدِمُوا إِلَيْهِ مَخْلَعًا مُلْقَى عَلَى فِرَاشٍ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمَخْلَعِ: ثِقْ يَا بَنِيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ. فَقَالَ قَوْمٌ مِّنَ الْكُتَّابَةِ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ: هَذَا يُجَدِّفُ. فَعَلَّمَ يَسُوعُ أَفْكَارَهُمْ فَقَالَ: لِمَاذَا تُفَكَّرُونَ بِالشَّرِّ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا الْأَيْسَرُ أَنْ يُقَالَ مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ قُمْ وَامْشِ؟ وَلَكِنْ لَتَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا، حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِلْمَخْلَعِ: انْهَضْ وَاحْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ وَادْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ. فَهَضَّ وَمَضَى إِلَى بَيْتِهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَتْ الْجُمُوعُ تَعَجَّبُوا، وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَعْطَى النَّاسَ سُلْطَانًا كَهَذَا.

Please remember to pray for the health and protection of Genevieve Allen, Donna Andruskiewicz, Olivia Aragon, Paul Archambeault, Elizabeth Ashooh, Elsie Ashooh, Alice Auclair, Erin Baroody, Michael Baroody, Anthony Blando, Helena Burkush, Fr. Michael Carl, Danielle Caron, Michael Cavanaugh, Meghan Connors, Sarah Cullen, Theresa Cullen, Sarah Dagher, Bishop John Elya, Sher Farrow, Julie Fregeau, Mary Fregeau, Peter Fregeau, Christine Freitas, John Gallagher, Marguerite Ganem, Mary Ann Garvey, Loretto Gauvin, Bonnie Gomez, Gail Fisher, Laurice Haddad, Nick Haddad, Lucille Harper, Laura Jorba, Virginia Kearney, Eileen Kennedy, Leila Khoury, Shirley Lanoue, Susan Latvis, Diana Label, Haley Lesmerises, Sadie Grace McCallum, Miriam McCallum, Ramona Matias, Susan Merrill, Maria Moser, Joanne Nader, Alfred Nasr, Afef Nasr, Raymond Nehme, Samira Nehme, Steve Notter, Steven O'Leary, Ellen Osgood, MaryJo Pond, Ellen Powell, Sheila Quinn, Daniel Quintal, Deborah Roberts, Adam Rubin, Fr. Andre St. Germain, Kara Salvias, Raymond Sherburne, Tarrant Smith, Catherine Waldron, George Webber, Martha Webber, Marilyn Whitmore, Iris Angelina Velasquez, and Joseph Yablonski.

If you are visiting our church, our parish family is delighted to welcome you here! Please give us the chance to get to know you by joining us for some coffee, pastry, and conversation in the church hall following the Divine Liturgy. If you would like to know more about the Melkite Catholic Church, check out the brochure entitled *“Welcome to this Holy House,”* located on the table in the back of the church.



  <p>Joe Ashooh, Agent 297 South Willow St Manchester, NH 03103 603-624-1000 www.joesthere.com</p> <p>Providing Insurance and Financial Services Call us for a free quote</p>	<p>NORTH HILLS REALTY GROUP, LLC <i>Residential Real Estate Brokers</i> Abraham Dagher, Realtor 814 Elm St., Suite # 302 Manchester, NH 03101 (603) 629-9988</p>	 <p>Chuck Stephen 814 Elm Street, Suite 503 Manchester, NH 03101 Tel # 603.606.3391 Toll Free 866.491.9675 chuck@glenwoodinvestment.com www.glenwoodinvestment.com</p> <p>Glenwood Investment Group <i>“Grow and protect your hard-earned wealth”</i></p>
<p>THE STEPHEN GROUP</p> <p>814 Elm Street, Suite 309 Manchester, NH 03101 Office 603.625.8825 Cell 603.419.9592</p> <p>JOHN STEPHEN <i>Managing Partner</i> jstephen@stephengroupinc.com www.stephengroupinc.com</p>		 <p>Stephen LAW GROUP P.L.C.</p> <p>Robert Stephen, Attorney at Law 582 Chestnut Street Manchester, NH 03104 phone 603-663-1007 www.StephenLaw.com</p>
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