

## ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, ON MAKING THE SIGN OF THE HOLY CROSS

St. John Chrysostomos (†407):

**More precious than the universe, the Cross glitters on the diadems of emperors. Everywhere it is present to my view. I find it among princes and subjects, men and women, virgins and married people, slaves and freemen. All continually trace it on the noblest part of the body, the forehead, where it shines like a column of glory. At the sacred table, it is there; in the ordination of priests, it is there; in the mystical Supper of the Savior, it is there. It is drawn on every point of the horizon, on the tops of houses, over public places, in inhabited parts and in deserts, on roads, on mountains, in woods, on hills, on the sea, on the masts of ships, on islands, on windows, over doors, on the necks of Christians, on beds, garments, books, arms, and banquet-couches, in feasts, on gold and silver vessels, on precious stones, on the pictures of the apartments.**

**It is made over sick animals, over those possessed by the Demon, in war, in peace, by day, by night, in pleasant reunions, and in penitential assemblies. It is an honorable contest as to who shall seek first the protection of this admirable sign.**

**What is there surprising in this? The Sign of the Cross is the type of our deliverance, the monument of the liberation of mankind, the souvenir of the forbearance of our Lord. When you make it, remember what has been given for your ransom, and you will be the slave of no one. Make it, then, not only with your fingers, but with your faith. If you thus engrave it on your forehead, no impure spirit shall dare to stand before you. He sees the cutlass with which he has been wounded, the sword from which he has received his death-blow. If at the sight of patibulary places we are seized with horror, think what Satan and his angels must suffer at the sight of that weapon which was used by the Eternal Word to weaken their power, and strike off the head of the dragon.**

