

## ***Volunteer Appreciation Week – April 27 - May 3, 2025***

### ***Volunteers Make Waves: Appreciation Material***

<b><i>Theme &amp; Message</i></b>	<b>Volunteers Make Waves:</b> This year's Volunteer Appreciation Week focuses on the invaluable contributions of our volunteers and the profound impact they have made through their dedication, time, and service. Their collective efforts are amplified and resonate throughout our parish communities, creating ripples and sparking waves of positive change.
<b><i>Guiding Scripture</i></b>	All messaging is centered on John 7:38: <i>“Rivers of living water will flow from within him”</i> . This verse can represent the power of faith and the extensive impact of collective dedication to doing good deeds.
<b><i>Thank You Cards</i></b>	The Archdiocese of Toronto has designed digital “Thank You” cards for distribution as a general thank you by email or print. They may be personalized to include the volunteer, parish, and Pastor’s name.
<b><i>Poster</i></b>	An Archdiocese-designed poster for display in your parish and/or bulletin available in two paper sizes: 8.5 x 11 (letter) or 8.5 x 14 (legal).
<b><i>Personal Message from the Pastor</i></b>	A message on the parish website and/or a personal letter sent via email is always appreciated. Wording provided for the Mass Announcement/Bulletin insert can be used, please reference guiding Scripture of John 7:38.
<b><i>Social Media Hashtags</i></b>	Social media is a great way to publicly thank parish volunteers, profile ministries, engage youth, and recruit new volunteers. Below are hashtags that will be in use from Volunteer Canada and the Archdiocese during this week.  Archdiocese of Toronto: #ThankYouArchTOVolunteers Volunteer Canada: #NVW2025 #VolunteersMakeWaves
<b><i>Web and Email Banner</i></b>	The Archdiocese Web banner graphic can be posted on your parish website and will be displayed on the Archdiocese homepage and Volunteer Screening pages. This banner can also be in an email.

## ***Recognition Material and Ideas – Cont’d***

<p><b>Sample Mass Announcement/ Bulletin Insert</b></p> <p><b>(Customize as needed for your parish)</b></p>	<p>The Archdiocese of Toronto's Volunteer Appreciation Week: Volunteers Make Waves will be celebrated from <b>April 27 to May 3, 2025</b>, in alignment with Volunteer Canada's National Volunteer Week.</p> <p>This is a time of appreciation and celebration of every volunteer and the positive impact each of their contributions make to our parish communities. Collectively, these efforts are amplified and resonate throughout our parish communities, creating ripples and sparking waves of positive change and exemplify John 7:38: <i>“Rivers of living water will flow from within him”</i>.</p> <p>Every day across the Archdiocese of Toronto, parishioners generously give their time and talent. Collectively, these efforts are amplified and resonate throughout our parish communities, creating ripples and sparking waves of positive change. These waves of change exemplify the power of faith and the extensive impact of collective dedication to doing good deeds.</p> <p>We recognize that each of our parish volunteers are at the heart of the Archdiocesan call to stewardship and are instrumental in all that we do. We thank each one of you, from the tireless work of Volunteer Screening Coordinators and Committee Members, Church Cleaners, Liturgical Hospitality Teams, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Choirs, Collection Counters, Ministry Leaders, to the faith-affirming efforts of Catechists, Lay Pastoral Visitors, and Baptismal Preparation teams, and so many other volunteers.</p> <p>I invite all volunteers serving in our parish's ministries to stand (if able), so we can publicly acknowledge and applaud you and thank you for the difference you make.</p> <p>Scripture: John 7:38: <i>“Rivers of living water will flow from within him”</i>.</p>
<p><b>Volunteer Gathering</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date, time, and physical or social platform location for gathering?</li> <li>• Which volunteers in your parish are to be invited?</li> <li>• Will gathering be for all volunteers or ministry specific?</li> <li>• Who will host and speak throughout the gathering?</li> <li>• Who will send invites and receive RSVPs – RSVP by date?</li> </ul>