

# BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Christ-Centered Academic Excellence

Dear Saints,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, broadband and telephone service providers and trade associations are offering many free options to Americans to keep them connected to the Internet during this difficult time. Below are a number of them. Please share them widely with anyone you know who does not have internet access.

**Free Community Wi-Fi Hot-Spots:** The FCC has asked the nation's telecommunications companies to take the <https://www.fcc.gov/keep-americans-connected>, which includes a commitment that vendors make their community Wi-Fi Hotspots open and free to all. Here are some of them.

- Comcast/Xfinity - <https://hotspots.wifi.xfinity.com/>
  - PenTeleData/Service Electric - <http://www.ptdunleashed.com/>
  - Zito Media - <https://www.zitomedia.net/wifi/>
  - Frontier - <http://www.frontierwifi.com/coverageareafreemember.aspx>
  - Charter Spectrum - <https://www.spectrum.com/wifi-hotspots>
  - Atlantic Broadband - <https://atlanticbb.com/my-services/my-account/wifi-hotspots>

**National Free Wi-Fi Map** - <https://www.wifimap.io/>. Many of these locations are restaurants that are now closed, but their parking lots may continue to have active service.

**Library Parking Lot Wi-Fi:** The American Library Association has asked every library in the country to keep their Wi-Fi open during the shutdown so patrons can access it from their parking lots. Please contact your local library for further information.

**Low-Cost Home Internet:** Several companies have low-cost, home-based Internet for low-income households.

- Comcast/Xfinity – Comcast will offer new residential, low-income customers its \$9.95-per-month Internet Essentials program free for 60 days. The company is also boosting the internet service speeds in this program from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps, which qualifies the service as high-speed broadband under FCC guidelines. Comcast will also suspend data caps for 60 days. <https://internetessentials.com/>
- Zito Media - Zito Media will provide its 20 Mbps Internet Service free of charge for two months to low income residents.
- AT&T – AT&T's Access program provides \$10/month home-based Internet to limited income households. Also offering two months of free service to new Access customers who order by April 30, 2020 (\$10/mo thereafter) and waiving all home internet data overage fees. <https://digitalyou.att.com/low-cost-internet/>
- Charter Spectrum (formerly Time Warner Cable) - Charter will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll call [1-844-488-8395](tel:1-844-488-8395). Installation fees will be waived for new student households.
- CenturyLink: CenturyLink is suspending data usage limits for consumer customers during this time period due to COVID-19.

**Federal Lifeline Program:** Lifeline is one of the four federal Universal Service programs (E-rate is also one) that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet for low-income households. Eligible customers can receive up to \$9.25 toward their bill. <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>.

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