WIRE Orthodox

UNCLASSIFIED // OPEN SOURCE | Friday, 20 November 2026 (Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos) | Vol. 2026-324 | As of 200800 EST NOV 26

BLUF. WIRE Orthodox holds at **ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=)** after three days of mixed signals (this edition covers 18–20 Nov). In Moscow, the Patriarchs of Antioch, Jerusalem and Serbia and the Metropolitan of the Czech Lands and Slovakia joined Patriarch Kirill's 80th-birthday Liturgy. The Bulgarian Church sent a bishop, not its Patriarch. In Ukraine, the Supreme Court on 17 Nov sent the UOC's challenge to the 2019 state religious expertise back for retrial. On 19 Nov the state religious-affairs service (DESS) declared the UOC's Boryspil eparchy affiliated with the Russian Church. A Lithuanian Seimas committee found the plan to transfer Moscow Patriarchate churches unconstitutional. Resolved: ORT-28 hit, ORT-03 hit, ORT-29, ORT-15 and ORT-26 miss. New: ORT-30, ORT-31.

0. WIRE Orthodox Dashboard

TOPIC	CRISIS LEVEL	DOM. INDICATOR	KEY DRIVER (today)	TREND
ORTH-T4 Orthodoxy and geopolitics	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	SIGNIFICANT	War between majority-Orthodox nations (WI EU-T1 Potential, ↑); state prize to the Moscow Patriarch	=
ORTH-T1 Church and state; pressure on Orthodox Christians	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Supreme Court remand (UOC) vs DESS Boryspil finding; Lithuania property plan found unconstitutional	=
ORTH-T2 Inter-Orthodox relations / schism	ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS	ABNORMAL	Four primates in Moscow; OCU Synod complaint over UOC house on Corfu	=
ORTH-T3 Holy Land and Ecumenical Patriarchate	NO CRISIS	ROUTINE	Jerusalem Patriarch in Moscow; Phanar Synaxis 30 Nov	=
ORTH-T5 Spiritual reading	NOT SCORED	—	Forefeast of the Entry; St Gregory the Decapolite (Luke 16–17)	—

Indicator: ROUTINE ABNORMAL SIGNIFICANT EXTREME **Crisis level:** NO CRISIS ENV. FOR CRISIS POTENTIAL PROBABLE IMMINENT

Family level = highest topic level. Roll-up per WIRE_METHOD §1a. This assessment takes no political side; it scores pressure on the Church's freedom, unity and flock.

Level change since 17 Nov: none. Trend change: none.

Moved indicators (vs 17 Nov). None. In Ukraine, a court ruling in the UOC's favour and a new affiliation finding against it offset each other; UOC legal status stays ABNORMAL.

I. ORTH-T1 CHURCH AND STATE; PRESSURE ON ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Ukraine, Supreme Court. On 17 Nov the Cassation Administrative Court partly granted appeals by the UOC Kyiv Metropolis, the Pochaiv Lavra and others in case No. 640/4748/19. It set aside the 2023 rulings that had upheld the Culture Ministry's 2019 religious expertise (the basis of the "renaming" requirement) and ordered a retrial at first instance. The account comes from UOC outlet UOJ/spzh and Antyfon, citing the UOC's news service. This is not the liquidation case (ORT-01 stays open). **Ukraine, DESS.** DESS declared the Boryspil Eparchy administration affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church, saying it had not complied with an order to leave the Kyiv Metropolis (Interfax-Ukraine, 19 Nov; RISU). ORT-03 resolves hit. **United States.** UOJ/spzh published a letter in which five members of the US House ask Ukraine's president to stop applying Law No. 3894 and the forced mobilization of clergy (UOJ/spzh). **Lithuania.** On 18 Nov the Seimas Committee on Legal Affairs and Law Enforcement found unconstitutional the proposal to transfer property held by Moscow Patriarchate Orthodox communities, by 7 votes with 3 abstentions. It paused a separate amendment on the community's "traditional" status (LRT/BNS; Laikmetis/BNS). ORT-26 resolves miss. **Indicators.** UOC legal status ABNORMAL (=). Clergy detentions ABNORMAL (=). Middle East Christian security ABNORMAL (=; no new Jordan attack found). Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** The Supreme

Court's ruling is procedural, but it reopens the evidence base of the 2019 renaming list. The UOC will likely (~70%) cite it against DESS affiliation findings. DESS is still issuing those findings eparchy by eparchy, so the net pressure has not eased.

II. ORTH-T2 INTER-ORTHODOX RELATIONS AND THE SCHISM | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

Moscow, 80th birthday. RIA Novosti, as carried by RT, reports that Patriarchs Theophilos III of Jerusalem, John X of Antioch and Porfirije of Serbia, and Metropolitan Rastislav, took part in the Liturgy. Orthodox Times (Phanar-aligned) notes that Porfirije arrived on 19 Nov and has yet to make a peace visit to the Phanar. According to the Moscow Patriarchate's DECR, the Bulgarian Church was represented by Bishop Isaac of Velbazhd (mospat.ru). ORT-28 hit; ORT-29 miss. No Phanar greeting was found (ORT-27 open, due 23 Nov). **OCU and Greece.** According to UOJ/spzh, the OCU Synod on 19 Nov called the UOC monastic house opened on Corfu on 31 Oct a "gross interference" (desk translation). It resolved to send an open letter to Archbishop Ieronymos II about Metropolitan Nektarios of Kerkyra (UOJ/spzh). New ORT-31. **Cyprus.** On 19 Nov the Archdiocese spokesman said the Tychikos case will most likely go to the February 2027 regular Synod (ANT1). ORT-15 resolves miss. **Indicators.** Rival jurisdictions ABNORMAL. Public polemic ABNORMAL. Breaks in communion ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). **Analyst Comment.** As expected, primates from EU or NATO states sent delegates, apart from Prague. All four attending primates are in communion with both Moscow and Constantinople, so the jubilee shows ties but no new break.

III. ORTH-T3 HOLY LAND AND THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE | NO CRISIS

The Jerusalem Patriarch's presence in Moscow is covered above. No new property, status or security action against the Jerusalem Patriarchate or the Phanar was found. The Phanar Synaxis remains set for 30 Nov (ORT-19). **Indicators.** ROUTINE. Roll-up: NO CRISIS (=).

IV. ORTH-T4 ORTHODOXY AND GEOPOLITICS | ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS

WI EU-T1 is at Potential Crisis (dominant indicator Significant, trend ↑). On 20 Nov the Russian president awarded the Patriarch the state prize for humanitarian achievement and phoned him (The Moscow Times). In his jubilee interview with RIA, carried by the Moscow diocese, the Patriarch spoke of helping returning soldiers. No new religious justification of the war was found. **Indicators.** War between majority-Orthodox nations SIGNIFICANT (standing). Religious justification ABNORMAL (=). Church-state disputes ROUTINE. Roll-up: ENVIRONMENT FOR CRISIS (=). Override −1 kept: the war itself is scored in WI EU-T1.

V. ORTH-T5 SPIRITUAL READING OF THE DAY | NOT SCORED

Spiritual Reflection. This section is not analysis and not evidence. Today is the Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple. The Church also remembers St Gregory the Decapolite and St Proclus of Constantinople (OCA, 20 Nov). In today's Gospel (Luke 16:15–18; 17:1–4), the Lord warns that what is exalted among men can be an abomination before God. He says scandals will come, but woe to the one through whom they come, and He commands us to forgive a repentant brother even seven times a day. On a day of honours and counter-statements among the Churches, the Most Holy Virgin enters the Temple with no honour of her own, only offered to God. Her way is the measure for every jubilee and every rebuke: to be offered, to avoid giving scandal, and to keep forgiving.

VI. PREDICTIONS

- **Resolved today:** ORT-28 **hit** (40%; Brier 0.36). ORT-03 **hit** (70%; 0.09). ORT-29 **miss** (45%; 0.2025). ORT-15 **miss** (75%; 0.5625). ORT-26 **miss** (30%; 0.09).
- **New: ORT-30** (40%, unlikely): DESS files suit to terminate the Boryspil Eparchy administration by 31 Dec 2026. **ORT-31** (20%, unlikely): the Church of Greece's Synod or Archbishop publicly responds to the OCU complaint on Corfu by 31 Dec 2026.
- **Open:** ORT-01 (40%), ORT-02 (25%), ORT-07 (55%), ORT-08 (10%), ORT-09 (45%), ORT-10 (35%; desk ~10%), ORT-16 (30%), ORT-19 (45%), ORT-20 (55%), ORT-22 (25%), ORT-23 (75%), ORT-24 (55%), ORT-25 (50%; desk ~25%), ORT-27 (15%, due 23 Nov), ORT-30, ORT-31.

VII. GAPS AND UNVERIFIED

- Supreme Court ruling: party-source accounts only; the ruling's text in reyestr.court.gov.ua was not read.
- DESS Boryspil order: date and number not seen on dess.gov.ua; reported 19 Nov.
- Lithuania: BNS does not print the bill number; the match to XVP-1977 is by subject.
- Liturgy participants: one wire report via RT; no full patriarchia.ru report read yet. Georgian, Albanian, Macedonian and OCA delegates were not confirmed by name.

- Congressional letter: text published by UOJ/spzh only.
- **Not collected:** Forum 18, USCIRF, Türkiye property, Metropolis of Atlanta, Mount Athos, Church of Greece, Morphou.

Sources

UOJ/spzh (18–20 Nov); Antyfon (19 Nov); Interfax-Ukraine, RISU (19 Nov); LRT/BNS, Laikmetis (18 Nov); RT/RIA Novosti (20 Nov); Orthodox Times (20 Nov); mospat.ru (19 Nov); ANT1 Cyprus (19 Nov); The Moscow Times (20 Nov); moseparh.ru (20 Nov); OCA readings (20 Nov); WIRE World Instability (EU-T1, 20 Nov).

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